

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan port limits entry of vessels. **PAGE 7**

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CNMI PROJECTED TO LOSE OVER \$40 MILLION

Talks of austerity returns

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

With the CNMI economy still struggling to recover from the blow of Super Typhoon Yutu in late 2019 now comes another whammy: a viral outbreak that is projected to cost the CNMI a staggering \$40 million-plus in revenue loss by the end of the fiscal year in October.

Speaking in front of business leaders at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting yesterday at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said this is the estimated body blow that the CNMI economy may have to absorb.

"Almost every economy in the Asia-Pacific region is negatively affected by the loss of Chinese tourism. Early pro-

RELATED NEWS

- MVA reiterates loss of over 70K Chinese tourist. **PAGE 2**
- MVA: Japanese arrival numbers remain strong. **PAGE 5**

jections show that we are set to lose at least \$40 million in revenue," he said in describing See TALKS on Page 4

Trump uses State of Union to campaign; Pelosi rips up speech

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— Standing before a Congress and nation sharply divided by impeachment, President Donald Trump used his State of the Union address Tuesday to extol a "Great American Comeback" on his watch, just three years after he took office decrying a land of

RELATED NEWS

- Pelosi rips up Trump speech. Right there on the podium. **PAGE 16**

"American carnage" under his predecessor.

The partisan discord was on vivid display as the first president to campaign for reelection while facing impeachment. See TRUMP on Page 4

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BUSINESS

A mani-pedi session, a relaxing massage, belly dancing lessons—what's not to like?

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Deaths from a new virus rose to 490 in mainland China on Wednesday.

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A key accuser at Harvey Weinstein's trial tells jurors: "He is my rapist."

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Local

Engine trip triggers islandwide power outage

The entire island of Saipan experienced an islandwide power outage in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2020, which the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. blamed on a power engine that tripped due to mechanical issues that cascaded into the other power plant engines.

According to a CUC statement yesterday, it said that Engine No. 7 at Power Plant 1 tripped at 1:25am, when the

oil mist detector identified a problem that triggered the protection devices and automatically tripped the engine.

"The load from Engine No. 7 was automatically transferred to another unit, which experienced low frequency, causing the entire power plant to trip, resulting in an islandwide outage," the statement added.

CUC's Power Generation personnel then performed as-

sessments on the engine and coordinated with field linemen to restore power to the entire island by 5:53am. Investigation of the incident is ongoing and adjustments are expected to be made to resolve this problem.

There were no water and wastewater service interruptions during this power outage; however, due to the low water tank levels of the Dandan and Isley Tanks, CUC

customers in Lower Dandan, Koblerville, As Lito, As Perdido, Airport Road, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and Oleai are being advised to conserve water for the next 24-hours to prevent the water wells from running dry and to also report leaks to the CUC Call Center at (670) 664-4282.

Updates will follow as soon as they are available. For more information, con-

tact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282)/CUC Hotline (236-4333), or monitor its Facebook page for the

MVA reiterates a loss of over 70K Chinese tourists in FY20

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A representative of the Marianas Visitors Authority reiterated yesterday the agency's projection that, due to the novel coronavirus outbreak in China, the CNMI will take a blow to its economy with the loss of over 70,000 Chinese tourists for the rest of the fiscal year.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort, MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim showed in a PowerPoint presentation that the MVA now anticipates to lose a colossal 73,567 Chinese tourists within the next six months.

Kim gave essentially same message at a coronavirus mitigation press conference held last Jan. 29, 2020, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, when he said that the MVA had expected to receive 47,467 visitors from China this year but that has been zeroed out, that MVA envisions zero Chinese tourist arrivals starting this month until the end of the fiscal year. Kim earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that this loss would hurt

the CNMI's economy since China is one of the CNMI's largest tourist markets.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was also present at the Saipan Chamber meeting, expressed his concern not only about the threat to the CNMI's economy but also the outbreak's risk to the public's health.

"Now, more than ever, we need to come together, stay vigilant about our health without causing widespread panic, and continue to promote the Marianas as a coronavirus-free, world-class destination," he said.

Torres encourages the CNMI to "work together and inspire our visitors from other source markets in Japan and Korea to enjoy our beautiful island and our warm hospitality." He believes this effort will minimize the negative effect of what the CNMI economy will lose.

"For now, please continue to follow updates from CHCC and my office for the latest and most accurate information regarding the coronavirus. We continue to monitor the situation closely, and if you need any information, please contact my office or CHCC," Torres added.

DYS now halfway with KCC project

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is now halfway on its project to build the Kagman Community Center.

Nearly two years in the making, DYS is closer to its opening date and DYS administrator Vivian Sablan and her staff are excited to show the community what they have to offer at KCC.

"We encourage all non-profit organizations and the public to use the facility as long as they aren't making a profit," said Sablan.

The only exception will be vendors who will be selling food at any event being held at the KCC, but a percentage of that revenue will go to DYS to help out with the expense of KCC.

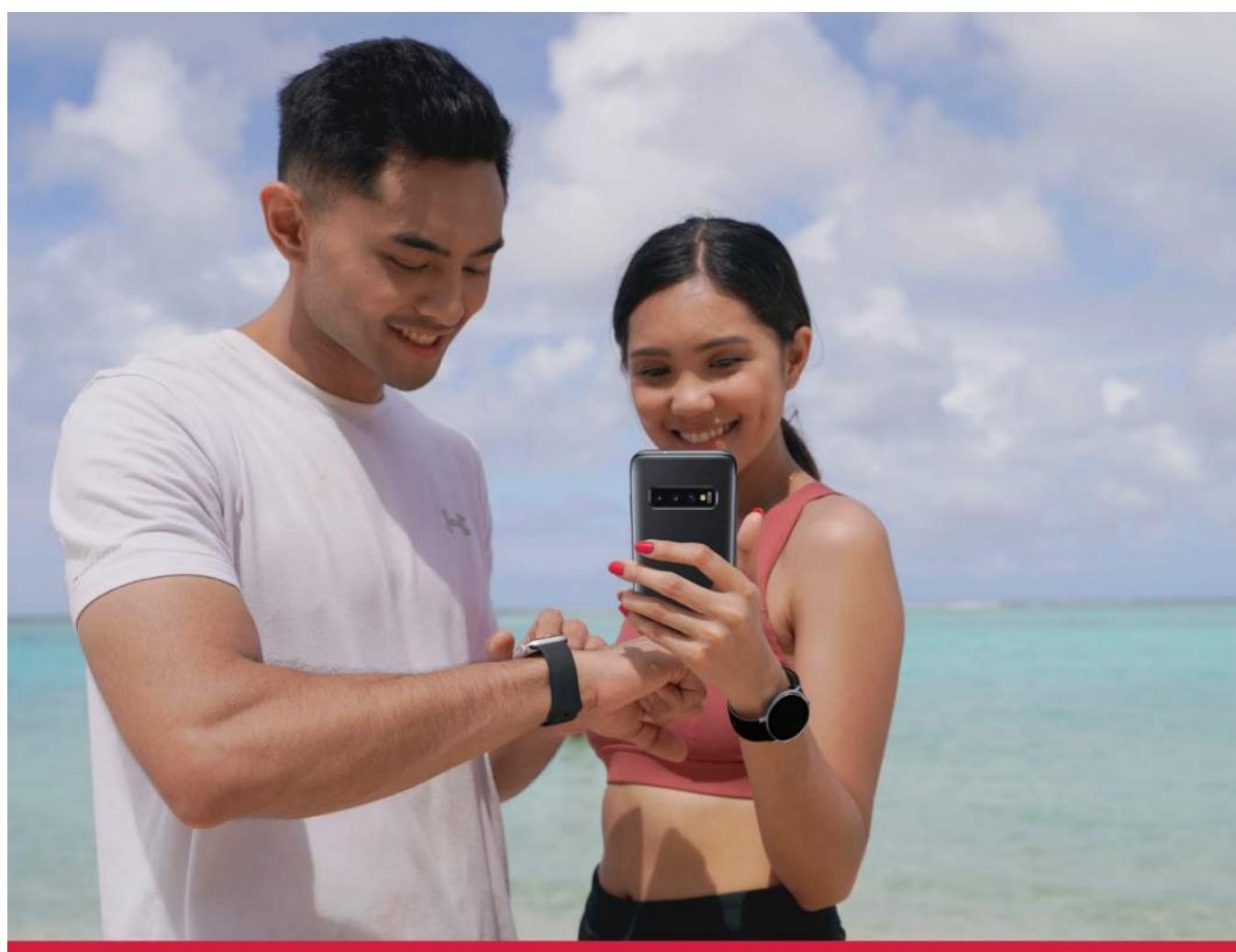
DYS also plans to host activities and programs such as the parenting classes for Par-

ent Leadership Month, their Summer Youth Empowerment camps, children's program, and more. They also encourage volunteers to help supervise children and assist in any activities.

Sablan plans to have activities at the KCC from Monday to Friday once the facility is up and running and to also have services like the Nutrition Assistance Program under DCCA to make it accessible to the Kagman community.

According to Sablan, they had to push back the official opening of the KCC due to unforeseen circumstances like Super Typhoon Yutu. Instead of January 2020, they're now aiming for April 2020. The project should be done by March. But to be fully running and open to the public, Sablan said that would happen toward April.

"We're inviting community agencies to also take part in the programs and make use of the center," said Sablan.



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Hong Kong Express suspends flights to Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hong Kong Express has suspended flights to Saipan effective yesterday due to the coronavirus outbreak, according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said suspension of flights will be effective until March 28, 2020.

Tenorio said they will provide full details about the suspension today, Thursday.

CPA board chair Kimberly King-Hinds said Hong Kong Express' flight suspension was inevitable and not surprising.

"At this point, everyone is being abundantly cautious to ensure that the virus does not spread," King-Hinds said.

Travelers from mainland China arrive in the CNMI through carriers such as Hong Kong Express, China Eastern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, and Beijing Capital Airlines.

Last Sunday, CPA said China Eastern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, and Beijing Capital Airlines Three have suspended or cancelled flights in February due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Carriers such as Jeju Airlines, T'Way Airlines, and Asiana Airlines also bring Chinese travelers to the CNMI

transiting through Seoul and Incheon, Republic of Korea. Approximately 700 mainland Chinese passengers arrive in the CNMI on these carriers per day.

President Donald J. Trump has issued a proclamation suspending the entry as immigrants and nonimmigrants of persons who pose a risk of transmitting 2019 novel coronavirus.

Sichuan Airlines suspended all flights to the CNMI from last Saturday until further notice.

Last Thursday and Friday, Sichuan Airlines provided "ferry-in" and "live-out" ser-

vice. It means that the airline arrived in the CNMI with no passengers and left with travelers.

China Eastern also cancelled all flights from last Saturday until further notice due to the virus.

Beijing Capital Airlines cancelled all flights beginning last Friday until the end of February.

District Court opts for certified question

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has opted to submit certified questions to the NMI Supreme Court pursuant to the mechanic's lien application filed by Pacific Rim Land Development LLC against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

During the continuance hearing yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that a certified question is necessary because of the difference between the state court and the CNMI's interpretation of state law matters, specifically the interpretation the CNMI's mechanic lien statute.

"I do find that the questions regarding the timeliness of a mechanics lien application has important public policy ramifications because it impacts the construction industry of the CNMI and the economic growth of the islands and for those reasons I believe that certification is appropriate,"

she said.

One of the questions Manglona proposes to submit to the NMI Supreme Court was whether the date of completion of a project refers to the date of completion of the entire project or the date of completion of the contracted work by particular contractor.

The second proposed certified question was whether the notice of mutual termination constitutes a valid notice of completion, where the parties agreed that the contractor began its work and completed portions of the project and owners agrees the contractor's obligation to the performed work under the construction contract are complete.

Manglona gave both parties the week to make any corrections or addition to the language of the certified question and said she'd send the certification questions out by next week.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Pacific Rim filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land

that it sits on.

A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

IPI lawyer David Banes said the application for a mechanic's lien on the Imperial Palace Saipan could have an extremely significant and crippling impact on both IPI and the CNMI's economy.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin Thompson, is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed-upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018.

Thompson said the unpaid amount that is owed Pacific Rim is \$5.65 million, but it wants to collect from IPI approximately \$10 million in damages that would be proven at trial.

BEACH CLEANUP
Volunteers from The Church of Almighty God braved the rains to join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade pick up trash last Saturday at the Marine Beach in Kagman.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



WITH IMMINENT AUSTERITY, BUDGET CUTS

Santos to Star Marianas: Lower fare to Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) appealed yesterday to Star Marianas Air Inc. to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Rota by lowering its airline fare during these difficult financial times.



Santos

and the imminent austerity and budget cuts.

Santos said the Torres administration has already advised the Legislature that the government stands to lose \$35 million to \$40 million in fiscal year 2020 as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

The senator said

austerity measures will be implemented in the near future and government employees will most likely see a substantial reduction in work hours.

She told Christian that austerity measures, coupled with the high cost of living on Rota,

will financially cripple many families, most especially their inter-island medical referral patients seeking immediate medical attention that is unavailable on the island.

"Moreover, some of these patients do not qualify to avail of referral services, thus the burden is even greater. At this point, any relief will be welcomed and greatly appreciated," Santos said.

The senator cited that the Commonwealth Ports Authority has adopted an incentive program for airlines that she hopes Star Marianas Air can avail of.

Santos said she is ready to assist the company in any way possible.

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TRUMP*From Page 1*

ment made his case for another term: Republican legislators chanted “Four More Years.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ripped up her copy of Trump’s speech as he ended his address.

“America’s enemies are on the run, America’s fortunes are on the rise and America’s future is blazing bright,” Trump declared. “In just three short years, we have shattered the mentality of American decline and we have rejected the downsizing of America’s destiny. We are moving forward at a pace that was unimaginable just a short time ago, and we are never going back.”

Holding out the nation’s economic success as the chief rationale for a second term, Trump’s speech resembled a lower-volume version of his campaign rallies, providing something for every section of his political base.

But while he tweets daily assailing

his impeachment, Trump never mentioned the “i-word” in his 78-minute speech. That followed the lead of Bill Clinton, who did not reference his recent impeachment when he delivered his State of the Union in 1999. Trump spoke from the House of Representatives, on the opposite side of the Capitol from where the Senate one day later was expected to acquit him largely along party lines.

Pelosi, a frequent thorn in Trump’s side, created a viral image with her seemingly sarcastic applause of the president a year ago. This time, she was even more explicit with her very text-ripping rebuke.

Trump appeared no more cordial. When he climbed to the House rostrum, he did not take her outstretched hand though it was not clear he had seen her gesture. Later, as Republicans often cheered, she remained in her seat, at times shaking her head at his remarks.

When Pelosi left, she told reporters that tearing up the speech was “the

make the budget adjustments now. He said he and his team at the Executive Branch usually meet with the Legislature every week to give lawmakers an update on what is going on in the tourism industry “because there is a formula to calculate that loss. ...We are reinforcing our cost-containment measures and we are looking at every angle...to seek ways in which we can generate revenues to keep essential public services going.”

“...We are looking at reduction of [work] hours, maybe eight or more. I know it has been very challenging the last two years for all of us, with the CW issues and Yutu. Now with this unforeseen outbreak and its impact on the global economy, it is going to take longer to recover,” he added.

Torres assures that the CNMI will continue to take proactive action and preventive measures against the coronavirus and any other illnesses. “Our public health is our priority and the safety and security of our people will take precedence over anything else,” he said.

and land vertically, and operate in an urban environment. Team MHS claims that the Taga has excellent aerodynamics, which saves fuel and electricity.

Taga’s composition includes a LIDAR sensor that allows it to automatically avoid obstacles; a brushless motor that allows the drone to take off and fly; a battery; and a Global Positioning System, or GPS, which pinpoints the location of the drone and allows for swift movement.

The team members credit their knowledge in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) field for the creation of Taga.

According to Liban, the competition helped them become aware of real-world problems.

“This year’s mission was to design a drone that could deliver packages to an urban area. Our team learned that delivery trucks increase the carbon footprint and pollution in an area. By utilizing small drones to deliver packages, the city can significantly decrease its amount of road congestion and environmental pollution,”

courteous thing to do considering the alternative.” Republicans denounced her action as disrespectful.

Trump, the former reality TV star, added a showbiz flavor to the staid event: He had wife Melania present the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, to the divisive conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, who recently announced he has advanced lung cancer.

He stunned a young student in the gallery with a scholarship. And he orchestrated the surprise tearful reunion of a soldier from overseas with his family in the balcony.

Even for a Trump-era news cycle that seems permanently set to hyperspeed, the breakneck pace of events dominating the first week of February offered a singular backdrop for the president’s address.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who has presided in the Senate over only the third impeachment trial in the nation’s history, was on hand again Tuesday night—this

time in his more customary seat in the audience. Trump stood before the very lawmakers who have voted to remove him from office—and those who are expected to acquit him when the Senate trial comes to a close.

The leading Senate Democrats hoping to unseat him in November were off campaigning in New Hampshire. In advance of his address, Trump tweeted that the chaos in Iowa’s Monday leadoff caucuses showed Democrats were incompe-

tent and should not be trusted to run the government.

Among Trump’s guests in the chamber: Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who has been trying to win face time with Trump, his most important international ally.

The president offered Guaidó exactly the sort of endorsement he’s been looking for as he struggles to oust President Nicolás Maduro from power. Trump called Guaidó “the true and legitimate president of Venezuela.”

ember, the work hour cut was only eight hours, yet the workers felt it.

Guerrero said this coming austerity measures are going to impact low wage earners—the ones that are being paid at a lower rate than any of the Cabinet members or superiors.

“Everyone has to be mindful that cost-cutting measures need to be implemented even at home. Because if you don’t have the resources, you just can’t be spending money that you don’t have,” he said.

How the CNMI government is going to handle the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak is a good question, Guerrero said.

“If you’re [going] only to promote in Japan and Korea, we have to understand too that they have [also] been impacted by this coronavirus. The number is alarming in their respective country of South Korea and Japan,” the lawmaker said.

At the House meeting, Attao informed the members that during the legislative leaders’ meeting with Torres yesterday morning, the governor talked about a potential \$40-million loss due to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, and the anticipated 25.3% reduction in the current budget.

Attao said there’s no official communication yet from the administration about the cut in the budget, but that they are aware that there is going to be a cut and that they have a percentage to share right now, so they can prepare their staff.

Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) said they need to meet with OMB and Finance because changes are being made mid-stream.

“We’re working with whatever salaries that they are earning prior to this cut that we are [going to] experience next week. [For] some of them, Finance already cut their check, so we’re making adjustments midway,” Camacho said.

Attao agrees with Camacho. “That’s the frustration, right. If we knew this a month ago, it’d be easier to prepare ourselves. We found this out this morning. So rather than drag on and wait for communication to happen, I want to make sure the members are at least aware that there’s a cut coming, so you can prepare. At least you have a percentage to look at, so we can prepare our office for that percentage,” Attao said.

He encouraged fellow lawmakers to introduce more revenue measures that will help the economy.

Attao said he called the meeting with the House members because he wanted to let all the members know about this anticipated cut.

“Because it is not fair for them not to know. I’m not like that. I’m about sharing the information. I don’t want leave anybody hanging,” he said.

TALKS*From Page 1*

the economic situation of the CNMI.

As the CNMI tries to prevent the entry of the novel coronavirus into the islands, it has been losing tourists from China since late January, as evidenced by booking cancellations from Chinese tour operators and flight suspensions from Sichuan Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Beijing Capital Airlines and, recently, HK Express.

That cancellation by HK Express means that, instead of a loss of \$40 million by the end of the fiscal year, the CNMI government will have to again adjust its projected loss by an additional \$4 million or as much as \$7 million, Torres said.

“I understand that there have been discussions around the community about us returning to austerity. I can tell you all right now, that all the options are on the table,” he added.

Torres said he will be meeting with the Legislature soon to adapt and

He said the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has been screening passengers to ensure that no tourist with the coronavirus will enter the CNMI.

He said this virus outbreak underscores the need to not just diversify the CNMI’s tourism industry but also to diversify the CNMI’s economy as a whole and not rely on just one industry. “...when you have a diversified tourism, there is a balanced market that you can rely on. ...Let us work together to encourage visitors from our other source markets in Japan and Korea to come and enjoy our beautiful islands as this is what we can do to minimize the negative effects of this economic loss,” he said.

“...we must continue to diversify our economy to be more than just tourism, so we can open business opportunities for cannabis, technology and other industries. It hasn’t been perfect but I know we can solve a lot of our problems when we work together and continue to promote the Marianas as coronavirus-free and a world-class destination,” he added.

she said.

Last Tuesday, the MHS Aeronautics team presented Taga to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio, and other education officials.

According to Bobby Cruz, who chairs the RWDC competition here in the CNMI, the MHS Aeronautics team has demonstrated their ability and significant achievements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in a real-world problem-solving scenario.

“They have proven once again that they are among the best and brightest students in the region and the nation,” he said.

Associate Commissioner for Student & Support Services Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan commended the students for surpassing expectations.

“That’s a testimony to what this world can expect of our kids from [the Public School System]. You are imaginative, you have heart, and you’ve done the work that needs to be done in a challenge that is theoretical, but the work that you do can impact the world,” she said.

MHS*From Page 1*

this April.

Team MHS won overall at the CNMI-level Real World Design Challenge, an annual competition that gives high school students an opportunity to work on real-world engineering challenges in a team environment.

The national RWDC will take place on April 25.

Team MHS members are Holly Liban, project manager; Gengyan Liu, chief designer; Seung Ju Lee, theoretical scientist; Microl Chen, project mathematician; Jinseok Park, systems designer; Jieun Yang, simulations engineer; and Vivien Liu, business director.

This year, the team was tasked to design a small aerial vehicle, or drone, capable of delivering about 1,500 packages to specific locations.

The Aeronautics team’s drone, which they named after the legendary Chamorro chief, “Taga,” is a multi-rotor type that can take off

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MVA: Japanese arrival numbers remain strong

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Despite the threat of novel coronavirus to travelers especially in the Asia Pacific region, Japanese arrivals in the Marianas continues at a steady clip, brought from Tokyo to Saipan by Skymark Airlines, which started servicing the route in November last year.

According to Thomas Kim, marketing manager of

the Marianas Visitor's Authority, who was one of the guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe, the coronavirus scare has had minimal impact so far on the arrival numbers from Japan.

"There has been no negative feedback and cancellations reported by our Japanese travel partners. Flights are at a steady



BEA CABRERA

Marianas Visitor's Authority marketing manager Thomas Kim talks about the travel history of the CNMI's source markets at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting yesterday at the Kanoa Resort Saipan in Susupe.

CHCC: We're very much prepared

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is certain that if the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV makes its way to the islands, they are very much prepared to handle the situation.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, the corporation has been hosting numerous training and ratcheting up standard operating procedures around measles, which she said is much more infectious than the coronavirus.

"If we were to get one case of the coronavirus on island, we're very prepared and would have been anyway since we already prepared for measles," she said.

Citing the outbreak of measles in other areas in the Pacific early this year like what happened in Samoa, Travis said that their staff at the Commonwealth Health Center have been taking precautionary measures to ensure that they are readily prepared should the CNMI have an outbreak of measles or any other illnesses.

"We want the public to know that if there was or is a suspected or probable case,

70%...so it is business-as-usual for Japan," he said.

This echoes Gov. Ralph Torres' call for the diversification of tourism in the CNMI by building more on the Japanese and Korean markets. It was only recently that three China-based airlines suspended flights to the CNMI, soon after President Trump issued a proclamation that limits the ability of airlines and vessels to enter the United States and its territories.

Kim credits MVA's diligence to keep stakeholders and travel partners abreast of

the coronavirus situation in the CNMI. "We have taken immediate action of releasing massive press releases through online media channels, including social media and website," he said.

According to Kim, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China issued a document on Jan. 26, 2020, suspending airline ticket sales of flights coming out of China. "All national travel agencies and companies, business group travel and ticket plus hotel products sales were suspended until further

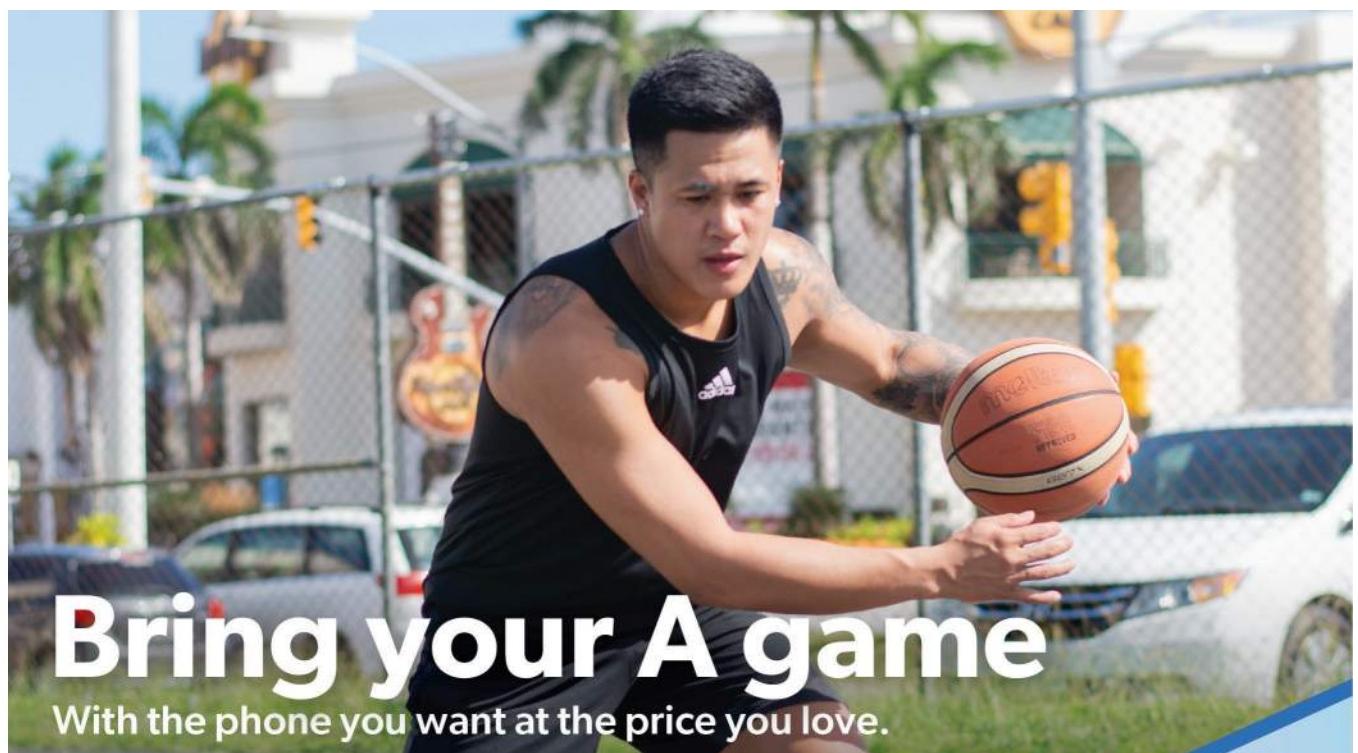
notice," he said.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, the CNMI projected its visitor arrivals to reach 549,956 in fiscal year 2020. But with the outbreak and suspension of China flights, MVA now expects its visitor arrivals to reach 503,304, if the suspension lasts two months; 456,410 visitor arrivals if the suspension lasts six months; and 433,043 visitor arrivals, if the suspension lasts eight months.

Some tourism businesses in Garapan have started to note a drastic drop in the number of Chinese tourists since last

week. "It's been like that for five straight days now," said a waitstaff at a Garapan restaurant.

Kim assured that MVA will continue to promote the Marianas as a travel destination in Japan and Korea. "MVA will continue to be in communication with airline partners, travel agencies, and hotel partners about the coronavirus [situation] in the CNMI. We are also in close communication with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. at the direction of Warren Villagomez, who has been supportive in providing us up-to-date information," he added.



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Tanapag Youth Center to highlight role of stream in community

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In partnership with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Tanapag Youth Center will be teaching its young clients about nature and the importance of taking care of the environment, particularly the Dogus stream that flows along Tanapag. They will also be doing a stream cleanup.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) said that this is

the first of her office's partnership with BECQ, and that there is a lot of excitement in learning about the stream.

"I'm really excited to see the stream and the role this body of water plays in the village, because it runs through the community right next to houses, straight into the ocean. There have been a number of issues brought up by BECQ regarding raw sewage, household debris, and just general debris being littered in the stream," Babauta added.

She said it is important for the Tanapag youth to learn about the different aspects of their community, particularly the different natural habitats there and its natural bodies of waters and how those contribute to the community at large.

"If this is a little stream, what is the role of the stream in our community, and how can we better support the role of the stream?" Babauta asked. "If it is constantly being polluted, and constantly getting littered, how will that affect the environment as a

whole and the people living around the area? These are things that are important for us to learn from our professional government agencies who are knowledgeable, and who are experts in this field."

BECQ, through its Division of Environmental Quality, regularly monitors stream water, and their assessment findings are used to create conservation action plans to tackle sources of pollution and restore the health of the island's watersheds.

Involvement of the village

community surrounding the streams are key in these restoration projects.

"The environment is so important," Babauta said, "not just land, air, water, but [our] immediate environment..."

what we live around, what we come in contact with on a daily basis, and how that affects our health...because it really all comes down to our health and the health of our children."



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, February 7, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) New Business
 1. Crisis Management Plan
- 4) Executive Session
- 5) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 6) Adjournment

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



Northern Marianas College

Procurement and Property Management

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6804 • Fax: (670) 234-1270
www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 20-0001

GROUNDSCARE & LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Campus Grounds Care & Landscaping Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday, January 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Email request may be sent to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for February 04th, 2020 at 09:00am, Bldg P. College Conference, attendance is strongly recommended.

Bid Submissions are due no later than 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2020, at Northern Marianas College, Procurement Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office

The Northern Marianas College is a Land Grant Institution accredited by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges.



COURTESY CALL

Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, right, chief, National Guard Bureau, meets with Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres last Jan. 29, 2020. This image was acquired using a cellular phone.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD/LT. COL. BEN LEESTMA



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-052

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

INSTALLATION OF SOLAR LIGHT SYSTEMS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PATHWAYS IN TINIAN FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 24, 2020.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT AND PRE-BID MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN & AQUIGUAN CONFERENCE ROOM IN TINIAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-053

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

CNMI STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN UPDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 26, 2020.

A PRE-PROPOSAL IS SCHEDULED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME AT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP20-OGM-054

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

AQUAPONICS PROGRAM PHOTOVOLTIC SYSTEM (ROTA) FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, VIA E-MAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS 04:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 26, 2020.

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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Saipan port limits entry of vessels, per Trump proclamation

The Port of Saipan has implemented President Donald J. Trump's proclamation that limits the entry of passenger vessels in an attempt to prevent the entry of the novel coronavirus, according to a Commonwealth Ports Authority statement yesterday.

Similar to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, vessels are being informed to not attempt entry into the CNMI if the vessel, its passengers, or any of its crew members have visited the People's Republic of China within the last 14 days.

Additionally, according to the Marine Safety Information Bulletin Number 02-20, which is issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, "Passenger vessels or any vessel carrying passengers that have been to China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) or embarked passengers who have been in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) within the last 14 days will be denied entry into the United States. If all passengers exceed 14 days since being in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) and are symptom-free, the vessel will be permitted to enter the United States to conduct normal operations. These temporary measures are in place to safeguard the American public."

The bulletin sets some ex-

emptions on non-passenger commercial vessels. The bulletin states, "Non-passenger commercial vessels that have

been to China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) or embarked crewmembers who have been in China (excluding Hong Kong

and Macau) within the last 14 days, with no sick crewmembers, will be permitted to enter the U.S. and conduct normal

operations, with restrictions. Crewmembers on these vessels will be required under COTP authority to remain aboard the

vessel except to conduct specific activities directly related to vessel cargo or provisioning operations." (*Saipan Tribune*)

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A collage of Saipan Tribune publications including a front page, a classified section, and a magazine cover for TAGA plus. A laptop displays the Saipan Tribune website, and a coffee mug features the Saipan Tribune logo.

235-8747

Byen, Santos win first SCPA essay contest

BY KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Catherine Byen and Victoria Santos were recognized last Friday night after being named first-place winners in the first Saipan College Prep Academy essay writing competition.

Byen, a Marianas High School junior, was taken off-guard by her first-place win because, according to her, she entered the competition not

feeling that confident in her essay writing skills.

"I was very happy to win this award but mostly I'm very surprised by the results because this was my first entry and my first actual essay contest. I was never really confident in my work but I got the confidence from my instructor and that pushed me to take this chance and actually put in the effort," she said.

Byen added that the contest was also a stepping-stone

for her to continue to take risks and she aims to try again next year.

Santos, a Mount Carmel School junior and a non-SCPA participant, said that she learned about the competition through her Composition 2 instructor who encouraged her to sign up.

"I feel so happy I won and I'm very surprised that I won because this is one of the first contests I've ever joined," she said.

Both Byen and Santos said their essays focused on why they agree with teen activist Greta Thunberg on why climate change is the most important issue the world faces today.

Byen said she believes it's the most important issue today because it affects everyone and not just one group.

"It doesn't affect just one specific group., I emphasized that it's a big issue because it impacts everyone, even ani-

mals, and everything on this earth," she said.

Santos said she agreed with Thunberg because climate change could potentially destroy the earth in the long run and, without a world to live in, what's the use of dwelling on other issues.

"I think climate change really is an important issue because of how other issues will affect us if there's no world to live in. For example, the sea levels have been rising over the years and it's going to continue to rise even more if we

don't do something about it," she said.

In other results, SCPA students James "Jinseok" Park took second place while Seung Ju Lee and Jinju Thompson tied for third.

In the non-SCPA category, Cevina Hwang took home second place and Juan Ada placed third.

The Saipan College Prep Academy is a newly-created company that provides college advising and essay writing help to Saipan students.



From left, associate professor Mary Therese F. Cruz, president, UOG Faculty Senate; Lawrence F. Camacho, dean, Enrollment Management & Student Success; Jesse Leon Guerrero; Dr. Saeid Safabakhsh, both board directors for the UOG Endowment Foundation; Patricia Krise; Thomas W. Krise, president, UOG; Wilfred P. Leon Guerrero, chair, UOG Endowment Foundation; Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president, Academic & Student Affairs; Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean, School of Health; Katrina Perez, director, UOG Endowment Foundation; and Shahram Khosrowpanah, dean, School of Engineering.

Krise couple donate \$85K to UOG endowment

University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise and his wife, Patricia Krise, have made a personal investment into helping students of the university pursue and complete their degrees. The couple has donated \$85,000 to be awarded as three endowed scholarships through the UOG Endowment Foundation.

"We all know people whose financial circumstances have prevented them from finishing school," Patricia Krise said. "So with these scholarships, we hope to help some of those students continue their degree programs and ultimately receive their diplomas."

The funds will be awarded specifically to:

■ first-generation college students,

■ students who have demonstrated need to complete their degree programs, and

■ students who will be participating in unpaid internships with nonprofit organizations.

For each category, \$25,000 will be invested. Within three years the earnings will produce

\$1,000 scholarships for three students each year in perpetuity. Additionally, to begin the scholarship right away, the couple is giving \$1,000 to be awarded to one student per category for the next three years.

"Like many UOG students, I was the first in my family to complete college," Patricia Krise said, "and the extra financial support I received made all the difference." (PR)

Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that

the February PTSA meeting of the Kagman Unified Schools has

been moved to Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020. The venue is at the Kag-

man High School cafeteria starting at 5:30pm. We are encourag-

ing all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care

will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237-3150

(KAGE), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 237-3196 (KHS) if you have

any questions or concerns. (PR)

Saturday writing workshops

The Marianas Writers Movement is continuing with its Saturday workshops. Each workshop is two hours, beginning at 1:30pm in the VTC Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. On Saturday, Feb. 8, we will be sharing the results of our beta reading and

some tips on line editing. On Feb. 15, we will focus on pitching your novel. On Feb. 22, we will have a special guest, Victoria-

Lola M. Leon Guerrero from UOG Press, who is looking for

Pacific writers to publish. The workshops, "Beyond the First

Draft," will focus on the editing process and are open to all over

age 13, and are free. (PR)

age 13, and are free. (PR)

to 46 (from 85 in 2006).

Saipan's collapse one of fastest in US history—docu

From being the poster child of the ultimate globalization success story, Saipan now faces one of the fastest economic collapses in the history of the United States and the world, according to a new documentary on Current TV. Current TV is a cable network founded by former U.S. vice president Al Gore. The documentary features the birth and death of the once billion-dollar Saipan garment industry. The two remaining garment factories—from three dozens less than 10 years ago—are set to close soon. "What's happening on Saipan is an extreme compressed version of what's happening elsewhere in the U.S. and the world; like a lab test of what globalization does for good and ill," American journalist Adam Yamaguchi said in his documentary.

said his team visited Saipan

last October to inspect the island's two main wastewater treatment plants: Sadog Tasi

facility and the Agiguan Ocean Outfall.

February 05, 2009

Labor's workload drops as workers leave

The Department of Labor's overall workload on the alien workers' side dropped slightly in 2008 as the number of foreign workers present in the CNMI went down. But Labor's scrutiny of each proposed employment of a foreign worker has increased substantially, according to Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat in a report to the Legislature. The scrutiny, San Nicolas and Kaipat said, has led to more denials of employment applications and more Labor denial hearings. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget has cut Labor's full-time personnel

to 46 (from 85 in 2006).

Flashback: A look back at past years' headlines

February 05, 2001

NMC gains 6-year accreditation

The Northern Marianas College has gained a new and vital edge against its educational counterparts in the Pacific with its six-year reaffirmation as a fully-accredited community college granted by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The WASC Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges decided to approve NMC's six-year accreditation application, after a thorough review and deliberation of the institution's Self Study and results of the three-day accreditation visit last October 2000. CNMI's lone postsecondary institution has always man-

aged to obtain the maximum level of accreditation since 1985, when it initiated efforts to tap expert assistance to objectively assess the institution's programs and services.

CNMI sees need for alternate livelihood

The CNMI government is now considering the development of the islands' agriculture and fisheries potentials to mitigate possible economic impact of the garment sector's departure in about five years. This, even as business analysts have disclosed that any economic development in the Northern Marianas will continue to be spurred by the very volatile tourism industry, which has been the CNMI's biggest revenue-generating

February 05, 2005

CNMI to honor school counselors next week

The Public School System Board of Education proclaimed on Feb. 9 as CNMI School Counselors' Day. Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente, together with the board members and PSS officials, signed the proclamation Thursday at the BOE conference room during the monthly BOE board meeting. The counselors' day was declared in simultaneous celebration of the "National School Counseling Week" from Feb. 7 to 11, as declared by the American

Ex-Army ranger wants DPS chief cited for criminal contempt

U.S. Army Ranger veteran Paul A. Murphy has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero in criminal contempt for allegedly violating the court's order in connection with his previous lawsuit over a gun issue where he prevailed.

Murphy pointed out that Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled on Sept. 28, 2016, that the registration of firearms is unconstitutional and that she permanently enjoined Guerrero from enforcing the provisions of the Commonwealth Code that has been declared unconstitutional.

Yet Guerrero, the original named defendant in that case,

continued to enforce the registration of at least 100 firearms, Murphy said. He said these registration numbers are officially documented through at least two different Open Government Act requests. Included in these registrations is his firearm, Murphy said.

He said he notified Guerrero about the unconstitutionality of the action by attaching a notice of duress and protest to the application for a firearms identification card. Murphy said he did so in his application for a renewal of his firearms identification card last Nov. 5, 2019.

He said a section of the DPS application for firearm owner's identification card ex-

pressly states, "You may keep and possess only the firearms you register." Murphy said he specifically underlined this portion of the application in addition to attaching the notice letter.

Murphy said not registering a firearm remains a civil infraction punishable by a fine of \$500 under Public Law 19-73.

He said P.L. 19-73 was written one month after Manglona's ruling, with knowledge of the court's decision on the registration of firearms. He said the application for firearms owner ID card was also updated after the court's ruling on this issue, but it still maintained the registration of

firearms in order to possess a firearm.

Murphy said the court's judgment is a clear, unambiguous, and specific, both citing the specific Commonwealth Code and expressing the spirit of the judgment for clarity in administration.

He said the court enjoined Guerrero from enforcing the registration of firearms, and that he notified the commis-

sioner of the unconstitutionality of the registration of firearms after the court's order.

Murphy said Guerrero was specifically provided a letter attached to his (Murphy) firearms application expressing duress and protest over the registration of firearms.

He said Guerrero signed the application authorizing the registration of the firearm.

In her ruling, Manglona declared unconstitutional the \$1,000 excise tax on pistols

and several provisions that the CNMI imposed under the then-newly enacted Special Act for Firearm and Enforcement.

Manglona's ruling favored most of the challenges that Murphy raised in his lawsuit that challenged certain provisions of the Commonwealth's Weapons Act and SAFE.

In a separate case, Manglona struck down the Commonwealth's ban on handguns. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Investor proposes university hub in Marpi

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An investor is proposing to convert the former Marianas Resort & Spa and Golf Course in Marpi into a university hub, promising a steady supply of tourists from students who could be studying on Saipan in the future.

Speaking before members of the House of Representatives, AMCON LLCs Dr. Christian Wei proposed to boost the CNMI tourism industry through education.

"The best way is to start this concept of supplying tourism with education," Wei said. "When you have a lot of students studying here, they'll bring relatives, friends and parents, and they're not going to just come up one time; they

will come many times."

According to Wei, students spending four years on the island equate to revenue, as they would be spending for their needs during their entire stay on Saipan.

"Then they will invite friends and relatives to come and then we'll also get some of relatives to come to study. So if we have a good numbers of students come, they will attract new tourists," he added.

AMCON is envisioning Saipan to be the gateway for Asian countries to have higher education and have access to English as a Second Language courses, and even sports education centered on golf, accommodating around 2,000 students annually.

The company also intends

to coordinate with local hotels and real estate owners on the island to spread the students' accommodations.

With a \$30 million initial working capital target, AMCON is proposing to secure the golf course resort in Marpi, and train and hire "international experience workers" with priority on the local workforce.

"As long as we have all the concentration and put forth the effort in both the private and the public efforts, we believe that we can create the CNMI as one of the best, not just in tourism but higher education in the Pacific," Wei said.

According to AMCON, through this process, more residents would opt to stay on island, given the better job opportunities.



APPEAL FOR HELP

Eileen No, president of the Saipan International School's Global Education City Model United Nations, shows off the club's award from last year's Global Education City Model United Nations conference at the Rotary Club of Saipan's Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Giovanini's Restaurant last Feb. 4. The club is soliciting aid from the Rotary so it could attend this year's conference in South Korea.

JUSTINE NAUTA



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on February 7, 2020 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Caladium Hall.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of February 7, 2020
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of December 30, 2019
- V. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. International Day of People with Disabilities Update
 - b. International Day of Acceptance – January 17-18, 2020 Update
- VII. New Business
 - a. 2020 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
 - b. Accessibility in the CNMI Initiative
- VIII. Action Items
 - a. Review and Approval of the Proposed FY 2019 Annual Report
 - b. Ratify the Approval of AT Lease to Own Program Fund Transfer
 - c. Review and Approval of the Proposed FY 2020 DD Basic and AT Budget
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting – April 2020
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcenas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

How frightened should you be about the coronavirus? Just enough to dial up routine health precautions

Words such as "pathogen," "pandemic" and "quarantine" are inherently scary. Yet for most United States, fear is a natural but not necessary reaction to the spread of the Wuhan coronavirus from China. What's the right reaction? Let's call it alert but not alarmed.

As of Monday afternoon, there had been 11 confirmed cases of the virus in the U.S. The death toll in China had reached 361, amid more than 17,000 cases. About 150 cases have been reported in two dozen other countries. The virus causes fever, cough and shortness of breath.

As safety researchers and epidemiologists have pointed out in recent days, riding in a car or catching the flu presents more danger to Americans than this coronavirus. Yet the unknowns surrounding a fast-spreading and sometimes deadly new illness understandably inflame worries. Approaches to risky driving and flu bugs are already baked into our thinking and policymaking (you did get a flu shot, right?). By contrast the coronavirus confronts us with an unfamiliar and potentially lethal challenge, and obvious but as yet unanswered questions. Will it mutate as it spreads? How far will it reach and how deadly will it be? No one can say with assurance yet.

"We're in a phase where a lot is unknown, and that makes it scary, and there might be a tendency to a strong reaction until more is learned," Mark Mulligan, director of NYU Langone Health's division of infectious diseases and immunology, told The Wall Street Journal. "It's not a time for panic or overreaction but to follow the playbook."

Government and health officials in this and many other countries have acted decisively. China has restricted movement in attempt to contain the virus. The U.S. State Department has urged Americans not to travel to China. American, United and Delta airlines are suspending service between the two nations.

In Chicago, the risk of contracting the virus appears to be vanishingly low at the moment. Before kicking off the Chinatown Lunar New Year parade and buying a mango bubble tea on Sunday, Mayor Lori Lightfoot noted that Chinatown is "open for business." While reiterating the risk here is low, she urged the federal government to provide cities with guidance and any funding necessary to deal with what has been declared a public health emergency, Gregory Pratt reports in the Tribune.

So what should individuals at average risk do? The See HOW on Next Page



Israel has thousands of young men who carry assault rifles. Why don't they commit mass shootings?

I was 9 years old when I learned to disassemble and rebuild an AR-15-style rifle.

It was a Friday afternoon in August 2000 and my older brother, Adam who was 18 at the time, had just come home after his first training in the Israeli Defense Forces. We were sitting on the roof of my parents' house in Tel Aviv and he showed me what he learned in boot camp. Israel has a mandatory draft, and unlike U.S. soldiers who get deployed far away, Israeli soldiers come back home every few weekends—and they often bring their weapons with them.

Even as a 9-year-old kid, seeing assault weapons of the style of the AR-15 was not new to me. You can't hide from rifles in Israel. Soldiers are on their way to or from a base everywhere you look.

In America, guns are a hobby for some people and often, they're even a part of a person's politics and identity. In contrast, Israel has no gun culture—even though military guns are pervasive enough that it's completely normal to see 18-year-olds in olive green IDF uniforms carrying assault rifles into the falafel shops of Tel Aviv. Even growing up with assault rifles around, I never knew anybody who privately owned a gun. And I definitely never thought that one of those soldiers on their weekends at home would open fire at a mall, movie theater, concert, grocery store, or bar.

Israel does have political violence—including a few mass shootings. In 1994, a Jewish terrorist shot and killed 29 Palestinian worshipers in Hebron. In 2009, a gunman entered a meet up place for LGBTQ youth in Tel Aviv and opened fire killing two and injuring 11. There have also been a few Palestinian terror attacks that were mass shootings.

But there's nothing like the crisis of gun violence that America is experiencing right now, a fact even more baffling when you consider the prevalence of racism and anti-Palestinian sentiment among many Israelis that goes all the way to the government.

This was on my mind last week, as the coverage of the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton unfolded. As I read about the violence, I couldn't stop thinking of Israel and the tens of thousands of assault weapons that are outside of military bases in Israel every weekend in the hands of young soldiers.

With so many weapons available, why doesn't Israel have mass shootings like we do in America?

To help me think this through, I called my good friend Ori Mayer, who's currently an MD-PhD student at Tel Aviv University and a former paramedic for one of the IDF's reconnaissance battalions, which are the flagship units of the infantry. I asked him why he thinks Israeli soldiers don't commit mass shootings

By ABRAHAM GUTMAN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Abraham Gutman is an opinion and editorial writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



in Israeli cities with their army-issued weapons.

For him, the biggest factor is the sense of purpose that comes from being a part of a bigger mission. "When I read manifestos of white supremacists who committed mass shootings, it seems that they view their actions as chipping in to 'fighting the good fight' from their racist standpoint," he told me.

According to Ori, being in the military gives young men a similar sense of purpose. "You put on a uniform and you are actively participating in what feels like 'fighting the good fight' without shooting anyone ... I don't remember doing anything too heroic in my military service but I did feel some sense of glory."

I get that. When I was 18, I refused to serve in the military and instead did two years of national service where I worked daily as a medic on ambulances. It was a hard period in my life. I'd just graduated from high school and everyone I knew went into the military. I felt socially isolated and every conversation I had with a stranger quickly became a political argument when they asked why I hadn't joined the military. But putting on the uniform of Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service, made me feel like I was contributing to my country and community. I was pitching in, fighting that good fight. I couldn't go into a slump or use drugs indiscriminately or go shoot up some place—because I was needed on the ambulance tomorrow morning.

Researchers who studied the shooters in U.S. mass shootings since 1966 found that a common attribute for most shooters seek validation for their motives. For a lost young man in a moment of crisis, planning a mass shooting provides a reason to exist.

I see America's recent increase in mass shootings as a crisis of purpose. When shooters like the El Paso terrorist post their manifestos on online platforms like 8chan, they receive validation and glory—bonding through their shared hatred. Even shooters who are not motivated by white supremacy and racism, such as many school shooters, see news coverage of previous shooting and shooters as

See ISRAEL on Next Page

International overreaction to the coronavirus is more dangerous than the virus itself

In April 2003, I was evacuated from my post teaching English in Guangzhou, China, at the height of the SARS epidemic. I was 23. While transiting in Chicago on my way home to Philadelphia, I called my parents. That's when they informed me that they were not coming to pick me up. Convinced that I was going to be "patient zero" for an American outbreak of SARS, they told me to take a cab to my sister's apartment, where they intended to lock me up for 10 days with only a bag of groceries and a DVD player to keep me company.

I had no symptoms of SARS and had not been in contact with any SARS patients. According to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the time, that meant that I was not a risk. Deciding that my parents were overreacting, I went to the worst possible place to travel to when you might have a deadly disease: Manhattan.

I did not have SARS and did not seed a new plague in Manhattan. But the message that SARS was a cause for panic was received—not just by me, but eventually by my Chinese friends as well.

Fueled by press criticism and considerable pressure from the global health community to prove that it was doing something, the Chinese government jumped into gear. It did what it does best: exercise its authoritarian power in the most dramatic, highly visible way possible.

Cheered on by the international community, it took disease control measures including many things that would not and could not happen anywhere else: sealing off entire hospitals, schools and apartment buildings full of people; rapidly building SARS facilities, including an entire SARS hospital in one week; and setting up neighborhood watch systems to root out potential carriers of the disease.

Quarantined in their university dorm rooms, my friends back in Guangzhou were so frightened that they said that they finally understood how Americans felt after 9/11. The World Health Organization praised China's actions and credited them with the success of the global SARS containment effort.

As I learned over the next several years while traveling back

and forth to China to study the aftereffects of SARS, the message that the Chinese received from that outbreak was that draconian actions in the name of infectious disease control are necessary, desirable and should overtake any other public health concerns.

China's No. 1 public health goal became to never again be the source of a global epidemic like SARS. In the years following SARS, China spent vast amounts of money to overhaul its public health infrastructure, expand its infectious disease departments and develop sophisticated surveillance and containment systems. It eliminated most of the live-animal markets and restaurants that gave cities like Guangzhou much of their character. It set up strict screening and quarantine protocols at hospitals and ports of entry.

Seventeen years later, the disease-control apparatus has cranked into high gear with the coronavirus outbreak, quarantining tens of millions of China's own citizens, shutting down entire metropolises in the process. And once again the international community is fueling panic and overreaction.

The U.S. has raised the threat level for travel to China to the same as for Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. Russia is closing down swaths of its 2,600-mile border with China. And the head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has declared the outbreak a global health emergency and praised China for taking measures that would not be acceptable or even legal in a large number of the WHO's member countries.

But what the WHO is cheering is both ineffective and dangerous. The virus has already spread. Barricading Wuhan, a city larger than New York City, is very unlikely to prevent further spread of the virus. Efforts by other nations to ban travel to and from China or to shut down trade routes—which the WHO advises against—will probably take a large global economic toll but also will not contain the virus.

The coronavirus is scaring people because it is new and much is not known about it. But what we can tell so far is that this is no Ebola. Most people who contract it recover just fine. The fatality rate appears to be considerably lower than SARS and is probably much lower than it appears right now, since many cases are

By KATHERINE A. MASON

Los Angeles Times

Katherine A. Mason is an assistant professor of anthropology at Brown University and author of *Infectious Change: Reinventing Chinese Public Health After an Epidemic*.



very likely going unreported and mild versions of the illness are probably not being counted at all. Most fatalities are among the elderly and those with preexisting conditions.

The situation in Wuhan, where the vast majority of cases are, is being made far worse by the panic and extreme measures being taken.

Panicked and trapped citizens are rushing to the hospital at the first sign of a sniffle. Hospitals are overwhelmed with thousands of people who probably do not have the virus, but are far more likely to contract it after waiting for hours in crowded waiting rooms with people who do.

Meanwhile, those with other diseases and urgent health needs are not able to get timely care as huge amounts of resources are redirected toward fighting the virus. How many people might be dying from heart attacks in China because hospitals are paying attention to nothing but the coronavirus?

What is needed now is calm—both in China and throughout the global community. Citizens of all countries should stay home if they are ill and should wash their hands often in any case. Scientists should do their jobs in tracking and studying this new disease, without inciting public panic.

In the meantime, broad quarantines of the general population (beyond those who are sick) should be lifted. This is not the end of the world. Treating the coronavirus outbreak as if it were will do a lot more harm than good.

The carcinogens in kids' products

The eye shadow kit for children, "Princess Girl's All-in-One Deluxe Makeup Palette," is a talc-based makeup product. It includes a mirror, multicolor eye shadows, lip glosses, blushes—and more than 4 million asbestos fibers per gram of eye shadow.

In mid-January, the Environmental Working Group, a national nonprofit organization, issued an alert about this product, urging retailers, including Amazon.com, to "immediately pull these types of products from their websites."

Asbestos exposure is the only proven cause of an aggressive cancer known as mesothelioma and has ties to several other chronic lung diseases as well. Since there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, anyone who may have come into contact with this product is at risk of illness.

Asbestos fibers are microscopic and almost always untraceable to the naked eye, leaving individuals vulnerable. Even small doses of this carcinogen can have detrimental effects, as the fibers embed themselves permanently in the body and create blanket tumors.

The harsh reality is that asbestos can have lethal health consequences that may not develop in children until their bodies are more mature. Because the inhalation of these fibers typically

goes unnoticed, it's difficult to pinpoint where initial exposure occurred after being diagnosed later in life.

This isn't the first children's product to be laced with this toxicant. Since the early 2000s, big name companies such as Claire's and Johnson & Johnson have removed contaminated products from their stores and websites, respectively. Unfortunately, more often than not, companies refuse to take full responsibility of ensuring the safety of their consumers.

The eye shadow manufacturer, IQ Toys, removed the kit from its website, as did Amazon and eBay, shortly after the findings were made public. Yet, as of publication, the company has not released any statement or comment taking ownership for its part in exposing children and families to asbestos.

Talc-based products remain legal, meaning parents and consumers of all ages must seriously examine what is in the products they buy and take home to their families. Asbestos is known to occur naturally in talc mines, which presents the risk of contamination when talc is extracted. With hundreds of talc-based products on the market, asbestos could be tainting more items than we're aware of.

A silver lining of this recent outbreak is that this issue is gaining national attention. U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), has intro-

By BRIDGET ROONEY

Tribune News Service

Bridget Rooney works for mesothelioma.com as an expert writer in the rare disease space and advocates for a global ban on asbestos. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by the Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.



duced a bill that would require all cosmetics marketed to children be free of asbestos or otherwise have a warning label. The bill is titled the "Children's Product Warning Label Act of 2019."

Currently, certain commercial products can legally contain up to 1% asbestos, but representatives are pushing for a country-wide ban, as nearly 70 other nations have done.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regularly updates a list of children's cosmetics recalled for various safety reasons. It can be viewed at www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-compliance-enforcement/cosmetics-recalls-alerts.

HOW

From Page 10

same common sense things that curtail the spread of other respiratory illnesses. Wash hands well and frequently, and stay home when you're feeling sick or coughing. The virus spreads through the air; it's not yet known if it can be caught by touching an infected surface. As with colds and flu, it makes sense to disinfect shared surfaces and avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

What not to do, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: No need to wear face masks, and don't project fear onto people of Asian descent.

The U.S. has a strong public health infrastructure, and this outbreak, already larger though apparently less deadly than the animal-to-human SARS virus before it, may well put it to the test. If we keep calm and carry on, with a heightened sense of precaution, we're giving that system the best chance to do its job and protect all of us.

ISRAEL

From Page 10

recognition and esteem, something that they long for in a purposeless life—even though it will likely come after their death.

In the days following the shootings in El Paso and Dayton, there were, as usual, calls for reform to America's gun laws. Those are desperately needed. But to prevent mass shootings, stricter gun control alone won't be enough.

Efforts should also focus on the reason that someone would want to pick up a rifle in the first place. That means finding a collective mission that young men could be a part of and have a sense of purpose without a destructive goal.

Some Democratic presidential candidates, such as John Delaney and Pete Buttigieg, see this crisis of purpose and propose a mandatory national service program—in military or civil organizations. But their well-intentioned proposals amount to indentured servitude, forcing people into labor with no ability to negotiate terms.

Were it up to me, instead of a mandatory service program I would invest resources in galvanizing young people all over the country to rise to the greatest challenge of our time: climate change. Mass mobilization to address climate change could give purpose and hope to a generation that needs it. For example, the Green New Deal includes guarantee of jobs to help make the transition to a sustainable and green economy. Those jobs shouldn't be seen as mere income, but as a part of a mission to literally save the planet. The task for our leadership is to make the case that fighting climate change is as sexy as it was in the 1940s to enlist to the military and fight Nazis.

Hate is often discussed as divisive, but among those who hate together, it is a unifier. To battle hate, we need to offer a different purpose and a common villain, not a group of people to demonize but behaviors that stands between us and our future. Climate change is not the only villain that we can unify around in a healthy way—as long as it provides purpose so that potential mass shooters would maybe log off of their hateful online chat rooms, put down the AR-15, and fight for something that is actually good.

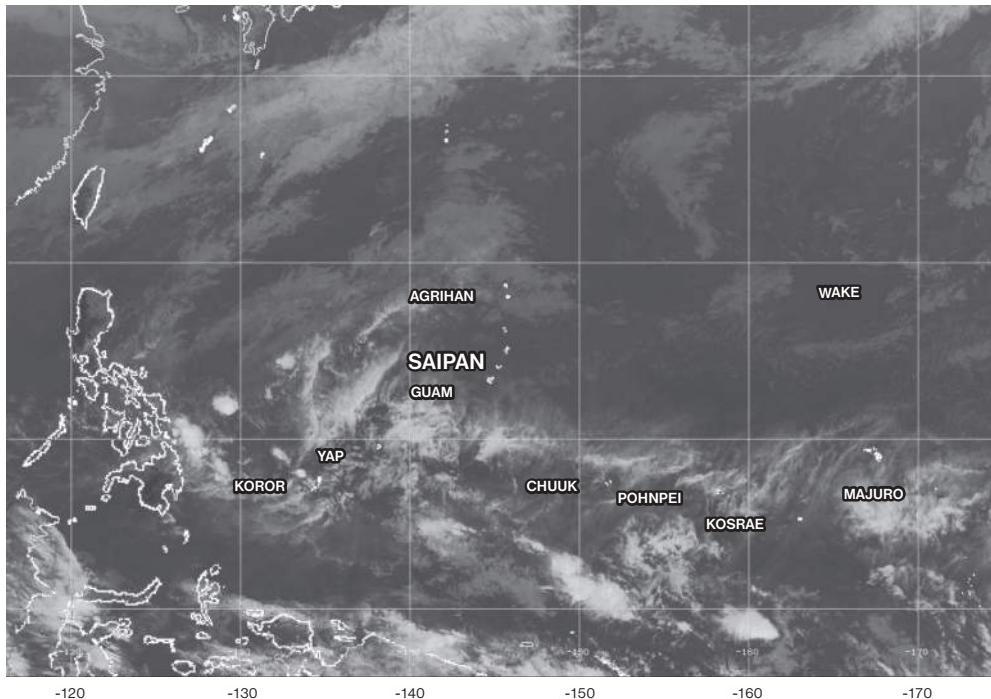
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

88° 77° 88° 77° 88° 77° 88° 77° 87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:23 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The shear line has weakened and retreated to the north, leaving partly cloudy skies and isolated showers across the Marianas. Trade winds have subsided to moderate, and combined seas at the buoys are 6 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	83°	/	76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87°	/	81°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	81°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75°	/	66°
Beijing	Sunny	39°	/	16°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72°	/	59°
Honolulu	Showers	74°	/	66°
London	Partly Cloudy	48°	/	36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	68°	/	48°
Manila	Showers	88°	/	77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	64°
Miami	Windy	81°	/	73°
New York	Rain	50°	/	47°
Osaka	Cloudy	43°	/	36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	46°	/	30°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46°	/	32°
Rome	Sunny	55°	/	32°
Salem	Thunderstorms	67°	/	38°
San Francisco	Sunny	57°	/	43°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	37°	/	25°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	43°	/	32°
Washington, DC	Rain	60°	/	49°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA156 6:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				UA112 4:45pm 5:26pm 2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816 4:35pm 7:30pm 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7				SKY811 10:15am 3:00pm Daily			
SKY816 5:05pm 8:00pm 6							
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:20am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:30am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
7C3452 10:05pm 2:30am+1 3							
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:05am 6:05am Daily				OZ6233 7:30am 12:50pm 2, 4, 6			
OZ626 2:10am 6:05am 1				OZ623 8:10am 1:40pm 1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 5, 6, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ626 3:35am 7:20am 4				TW309 11:10am 4:40pm Daily			
7C3403 4:35am 8:35am Daily				OZ625 7:30pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ6243 3:10pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6				TW307 7:45pm 1:05am+1 Daily			
OZ624 3:30pm 7:20pm 1, 3, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily				OZ625 9:05pm 2:25am+1 3			
TW310 5:40pm 10:15pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701 2:10am 10:35am 1 via ICN				UA189/174 12:40am 8:11am+1 3, 6 via GUM			
OZ626/701 2:50am 10:35am 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				OZ702/625 12:05pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN			
UA117/183 9:15am 9:50pm Daily via GUM				OZ702/625 12:05pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN			
UA117/193 9:15am 11:50pm 2, 5 via GUM-ROR				OZ702/625 12:05pm 2:25am+1 3 via ICN			
UA156/183 6:20pm 9:50pm Daily via GUM				UA192/174 10:40pm 8:11am+1 2, 5 via GUM-ROR			
UA156/193 6:20pm 11:50pm 2 via GUM-ROR				UA184/174 10:55pm 8:11am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			
				OZ704/6233 11:45pm 12:50pm+1 2, 4, 6 via ICN			
				OZ704/623 11:45pm 1:40pm+1 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN			
				OZ704/6233 11:45pm 12:50pm+1 2, 4, 6 via ICN			
				OZ704/623 11:45pm 1:40pm+1 1, 3 via ICN			
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN							

Business



Pamper your nails and give it that fresh look.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A beautifying mani-pedi session, a relaxing massage, belly dancing lessons—what's not to like?

The Sister's Nail, Massage and Belly Dancing along Beach

Taiwan-based company acquires Bumble Bee Foods

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan—FCF Co. Ltd., one of the world's largest integrated marine industry supply-chain service providers, announced Friday that it has acquired Bumble Bee Foods, a 120-year old marketer of seafood and specialty protein products sold in the U.S., Canada, and throughout the world. There are no anticipated changes to the current Bumble Bee headquarters in San Diego, California.

"We are confident that Bumble Bee, under the thoughtful leadership of its president and CEO, Jan Tharp, will continue to build on its storied history of delivering innovative, high quality, and sustainable seafood products to customers," said FCF president Max Chou. "The company is poised for future growth and profitably, and we anticipate strong collaboration and interaction between FCF and Bumble Bee for the long-term."

According to Chou, the partnership is a natural one, as the two companies have enjoyed a productive supplier-purchaser relationship for more than 30 years and share a commitment to sustainability and global fisheries conservation.

Specifically, to achieve the most up-to-date and internationally recognized

» \$928M transaction of Bumble Bee's North American assets closed Friday

Program" at various locations, including Taiwan, Mauritius, and Fiji.

"This is just the beginning of the journey," Chou said. "FCF's acquisition of Bumble Bee strengthens our best-in-class sustainability and social responsibility efforts, and puts us in an advantageous position for sustained growth and leadership throughout the tuna and seafood industries."

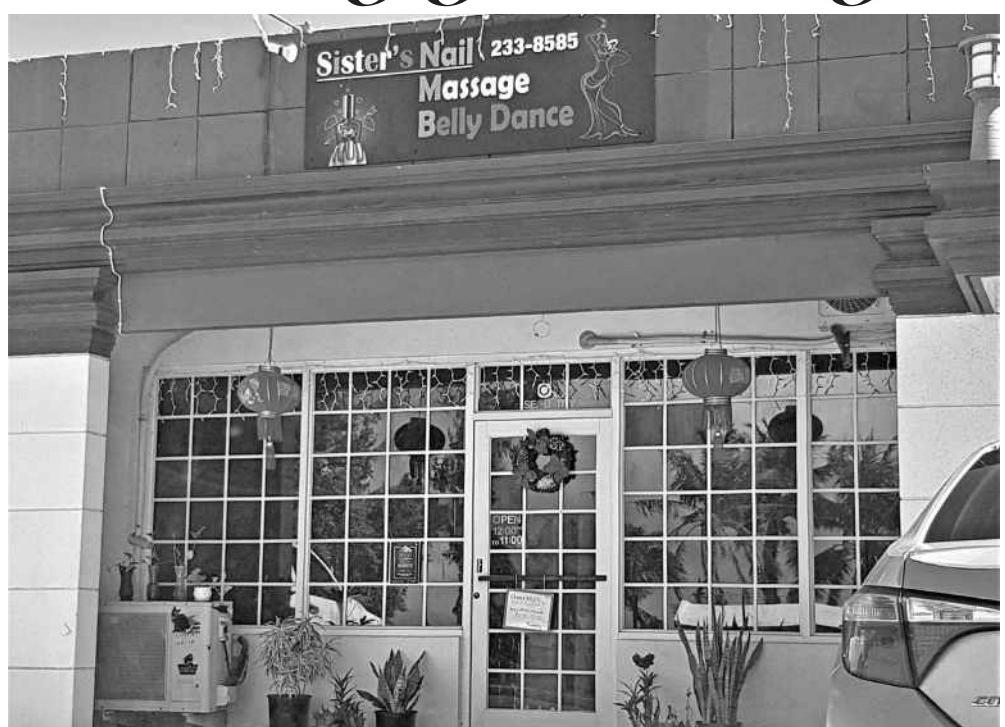
FCF wishes to thank Moelis & Company LLC, serving as exclusive financial adviser and investment banker to FCF in the transaction, as well as The Giannuzzi Group, LLP, serving as U.S. M&A counsel; Rosen & Associates, P.C., serving as U.S. bankruptcy counsel; Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, serving as Canadian counsel; Baker and Miller, PLLC, serving as antitrust counsel; and, Parks & Solar, LLP, serving as industry counsel. (PR)

Saipan cannot have too many massage places. Sister's offers oil massage and its in-house masseuse has the magic fingers to ease away body pains.

They also offer sports massage that aims to give relief to the whole body and specific problem areas caused by muscle tension or sports injuries. This is open to athletes and non-athletes.

A one-hour massage is only \$30, 90 minutes go for \$45 and their two-hour session is only \$60. They also have a prepaid massage—a five-hour session for only \$100.

To mark Valentine's Day, they have an ongoing promo called "Nail Care Special" that includes a manicure for only \$16, French tips for only \$16, nail extensions for only \$28 and French extensions for only \$38.



Sister's Nail, Massage and Belly Dancing is located besides the JP Building along Beach Road, Garapan.

BEA CABRERA



BEA CABRERA
Belly dancing lessons happens three times a week from 7:30pm to 9pm.

As for their belly-dancing lessons, the salon describes it as a "unique" dance that requires one's waist and hips to move and is a good way to stay active and healthy.

The lessons are open to adults and children and are held three times a week: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:30pm to 9pm for adults and the children belly dancing lesson is

open every Saturday. The salon has its own dance studio that can accommodate over 10 students.

A few weeks ago, the belly dancers of Sisters Nails Mas-

BUSINESS BRIEFS

American Airlines halts Hong Kong flights, United to follow

American Airlines said Tuesday it has suspended flights to Hong Kong through Feb. 20 due to weak demand, and United Airlines will do the same next weekend. Interest in travel to Hong Kong was already weakened by months of anti-government protests in the city, and has fallen off more recently as the coronavirus outbreak spreads in China.

On Tuesday, officials in Hong Kong reported the first death from the virus in the semi-autonomous territory, fanning fear that the virus is spreading locally. China reported 425 deaths and more than 20,000 confirmed cases, up sharply from figures the day before. United, American and Delta Air Lines all announced they would suspend flights to mainland China shortly after the State Department issued an advisory last week telling

Americans not to travel there.

Macy's to close 125 stores, shed 2,000 corporate jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—Macy's said Tuesday it is closing 125 of its least productive stores and cutting 2,000 corporate jobs as the struggling department store tries to reinvent itself in the age of online shopping. The store closures represent about one fifth of Macy's current total. They include

about 30 that are in the process of closing and account for \$1.4 billion in annual sales. Macy's didn't specify how many jobs would be lost at the shuttered stores. The corporate jobs will be shed as Macy's closes its offices in Cincinnati and San Francisco, leaving New York as its sole corporate headquarters. Macy's said that the 2,000 jobs to be lost account for about 9% of its corporate workforce. Overall, Macy's currently employs about 130,000 people.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
28,807.63
+407.82
1.44%

S&P
3,297.59
+48.67
1.50%

NASDAQ
9,467.97
+194.57
2.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.4845
British Pound	0.7679
Canadian Dollar	1.3286
Chinese Yuan	6.8798
Euro	0.9061

Hong Kong Dollar **7.7645**

Indian Rupee **70.5292**

Japanese Yen **109.4570**

Malaysian Ringgit **4.0776**

New Zealand Dollar **1.5423**

Philippine Peso **49.8549**

Russian Ruble **62.8985**

Singapore Dollar **1.3806**

South Korean Won **1167.25**

Swiss Franc **0.9699**

Taiwan Dollar **29.6158**

Thailand Baht **31.0605**

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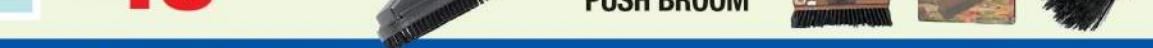
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Nation

Pelosi rips up Trump speech. Right there on the podium.

By LAURIE KELLMAN and
LISA MASCARO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—And then she tore up the speech.

No sooner had President Donald Trump finished his State of the Union address than House Speaker Pelosi ripped the paper it was printed on in two.

Right there, on camera, behind Trump's back. As he stepped down, she ripped again. Then a third time. And a fourth. If Trump knew about the American carnage going on behind him, he didn't react as he left. But Pelosi was on her turf, with a deep understanding of her audience—and she wasn't finished. In case any confusion remained, Pelosi held up what remained of the address to her family in the gallery, in full view of reporters.

"It was a manifesto of mis-truths," Pelosi told reporters as she left the Capitol. The ripping was not planned, according to a person close to the speaker who was unauthorized to speak publicly.

Republicans dismissed her display, on the eve of Trump's acquittal in the Senate impeachment trial, as a tantrum.

"She might as well rip up any plans for attracting independent voters," said Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh. "Pelosi and the Democrats sat on their hands through all of the good news for Americans in that speech."

"This speech was about American heroes and American workers. She decided



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., tears her copy of President Donald Trump's State of the Union address after he delivered it to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020. Vice President Mike Pence is at left. AP

THAT was worth literally tearing apart," tweeted Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the Republican vote-counter.

Tearing the speech gave Pelosi the last visual word over Trump, who had spoken to the House from a position of strength. He arrived in the chamber with the full force of the Republican Party behind him. She is leading a party in the throes of a divisive presidential nomination fight that had botched the kickoff Iowa caucuses only the night before. The House had impeached Trump on her watch. But the Senate was

poised to acquit him.

From the start, the event was awkward because the history between those two was so icy. They had not spoken since October, when Pelosi pointed at Trump over a White House conference table, suggested that Russia controls him and walked out.

Now, Trump was returning to the very chamber where he was impeached, standing before the same Democrats who have called him unfit for office and sought to oust him. He stepped to the podium and handed navy blue folders containing his speech to Pelosi

and Vice President Mike Pence. Photos from that moment show that Trump mistakenly handed Pence's copy

to Pelosi. The outside reads in gold letters: "The President of the Senate of the United States." That's Pence's title.

Trump impeachment acquittal on track ahead of Senate vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is on the verge of acquittal by the Senate, an end to only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history but coming at the start of a tumultuous campaign for the White House.

A majority of senators have now expressed unease with Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But there's nowhere near the two-thirds

support necessary in Republican-held Senate for the Constitution's bar of high crimes and misdemeanors to convict and remove the president from office.

The outcome expected Wednesday caps nearly five months of remarkable impeachment proceedings launched in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House, ending in Mitch McConnell's Senate

and reflective of the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump

At that moment, Pelosi extended a hand. Trump did not acknowledge it, instead turning around to begin his speech.

Pelosi, famous for casting shade, especially on Trump, gave a look.

For 78 minutes, Trump went on to extol a "Great American Comeback" on his watch, just three years after he took office decrying a land of "American carnage" under his predecessor. Pelosi read through her copy as he spoke.

Trump bestowed the Medal of Honor on Rush Limbaugh to raucous applause and a glum reception from House Democrats.

"My fellow Americans, the best is yet to come," he finished. Pelosi had already gathered the papers for her big finish.

The moment was a less joyful echo of last year's State of the Union, when Pelosi stole the show with a smirk-and-clap, eye to eye with Trump. Then, Democrats were triumphant after election gains that flipped the House from Republican control and put Pelosi back in the speaker's chair.

Buttigieg slightly leading Sanders in partial Iowa results

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The Iowa Democratic Party released partial results of its kickoff presidential caucus after a day-long delay late Tuesday showing former Midwestern mayor Pete Buttigieg with a slight lead over progressive Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the opening contest of the party's 2020 primary season.

The results followed 24 hours of chaos as technical problems marred the complicated caucus process, forcing state officials to apologize and raising questions about Iowa's traditional place atop the presidential primary calendar.

It was too early to call a winner based on the initial results, but Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden and Min-



Buttigieg

Sanders

Iowa Sen. Amy Klobuchar were trailing in the tally of State Delegate Equivalents, according to data released for the first time by the Iowa Democratic Party nearly 24 hours after voting concluded.

The results reflected 71% of precincts in the state. The two early leaders, Buttigieg and Sanders, were separated by 40 years in age, conflicting ideology and more.

Sanders, a 78-year-old self-described democratic socialist, has been a progressive

powerhouse for decades, while the 38-year-old Buttigieg's early standing cemented his transformation from a little-known Indiana mayor to a legitimate force in the 2020 contest. Buttigieg is also the first openly gay candidate to earn presidential primary delegates.

"We don't know all of the numbers, but we know this much: A campaign that started a year ago with four staff members, no name recognition, no money, just a big idea—a campaign that some said should have no business even making this attempt—has taken its place at the front of this race," Buttigieg, declared, his voice filled with emotion, as he campaigned in next-up New Hampshire with his husband looking on.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man arrested in slaying of 2 sisters at Texas dormitory

COMMERCE, Texas (AP)—A man has been arrested in the fatal shooting at a university dormitory in Texas of a woman believed to be his ex-girlfriend and her sister and the wounding of a 2-year-old boy, school officials said Tuesday. Texas A&M University-Commerce said Jacques Dshawn Smith, 21, was arrested on a charge of capital murder in the shooting deaths Monday of Deja Matts, 19, and Abbaney Matts, 20, at Pride Rock residence hall on the campus in Commerce, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) northeast of Dallas.

Officials said Deja Matts, of the Dallas suburb of Garland, was a freshman at the university pursuing a bachelor's degree in public health. Officials said Smith is believed to be the ex-boyfriend of Abbaney Matts. Neither Abbaney Matts nor Smith were students at the school.

Officials said Jan Peter Meister was indicted on accusations that he called Schiff's Washington office from Tucson around Oct. 1 and left an expletive-laden voicemail saying he planned to injure Schiff. U.S. Capitol Police determined through caller ID and investigation that Meister left the voicemail, authorities said. Prosecutors say police went to Meister's home on Oct. 3 and he said he was intoxicated when he made the call and didn't remember specifics of the incident. Court documents say Meister told authorities that he "strongly dislikes Democrats" and that he was probably upset about something he saw on Fox News.

Arizona man accused of threatening congressman Adam Schiff

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A March 9 trial date has been set for an Arizona man accused of making a threatening phone call to California U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff last year. Federal court records released Tues-

Asia

BEIJING (AP)—Deaths from a new virus rose to 490 in mainland China on Wednesday while new cases on a Japanese cruise ship, in Hong Kong and in other places showed the increasing spread of the outbreak and renewed attention toward containing it.

Ten people from the cruise ship tested positive and were taken to hospitals, while all 3,700 crew and passengers on the ship will be quarantined on board for up to 14 days, Health Minister Nobukatsu Kato said. More tests are pending.

■ ■ ■
BEIJING (AP)—A charter flight carrying New Zealanders home from Wuhan has landed in Auckland.

On board are 190 passengers evacuated from the Chinese city at the center of the virus outbreak.

They include 98 New Zealand citizens or residents, 35 Australian citizens or residents, and others from Pacific nations including Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Samoa.

Most of the passengers will be taken by bus to a military facility where they will be held in quarantine for two weeks. The Australians are to be transferred directly onto another flight.

Also on board are eight British, one Dutch and 1 Uzbek.

There are no confirmed cases in New Zealand.

A plane from Thailand also flew back home 138 Thais home from Wuhan.

Officials in hazmat suits greeted the passengers at U-Tapao airport and took them to a navy compound where they will be quarantined for 14 days.

Health officials in Thailand have confirmed six more cases for a total of 25.

■ ■ ■
In Hong Kong, hospitals workers are striking to demand the border with mainland China be shut completely to ward off the virus, but four new cases without known travel to the mainland indicate the illness is spreading locally in the territory.

The growing caseload “indicates significant risk of community transmission” and could portend a “large-scale” outbreak, said Chuang Shuk-kwan, head of the communicable disease branch at the Center for Health Protection.

Hospitals in Hong Kong figures showed an increase of



Japan Coast Guard's patrol boat, left, is brought alongside the cruise ship Diamond Princess to take passengers tested positive for coronavirus to hospitals off Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020

AP

CHINA DEATHS RISE TO 490, Japan confirms 10 cases on ship

said they had to cut some services due to striking workers' absences. More than 7,000 joined the strike Tuesday, according to the Hospital Authority Employees' Alliance, the strike organizer.

The territory's beleaguered leader, Carrie Lam, criticized the strike and said the government was doing all it could to limit the flow of people across the border. Almost all land and sea links have been closed, but the striking workers want it shut completely.

“Important services, critical operations have been affected,” Lam told reporters. “So I’m appealing to those who are taking part in this action: Let’s put the interests of the patients and the entire public health system above all other things.”

With the epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan, cut off by rail, air and road to try to contain the virus, the U.S. and other countries were organizing more evacuation flights for their citizens still in the central Chinese city.

The latest mainland China figures showed an increase of

65 deaths from the previous day, all the new deaths from Wuhan. The number of new cases increased to 24,324, a rise of 3,887 from the previous day. Outside mainland China, at least 180 cases have been confirmed, including two fatalities, one in Hong Kong and another in the Philippines.

To treat the thousands of patients, China rushed to build hospitals and converted a gymnasium, exhibition hall and cultural center in Wuhan.

Patients were being moved into a new, 1,000-bed hospital with prefabricated wards and isolation rooms. A 1,500-bed hospital also specially built

opens in days. The hospitals made from converted public spaces to treat patients with mild symptoms have a total of 3,400 beds, the simple cots placed in tight rows in cavernous rooms without any barriers between them.

One man, Fang Bin, said he saw wards so crowded during a visit to the city’s No. 5 Hospital on Saturday that some patients were forced to sit on the ground.

“There are too many patients, it’s overcrowded,” Fang told The Associated Press. He said he was taken from his home and questioned by police after he posted a video of

what he saw online.

The 10 cases confirmed on the Japanese cruise ship raised that country’s total to 33 cases. They were among 273 people tested because they had a cough or fever, which are symptoms of the virus, or had close contact with a man who got off the ship in Hong Kong and was infected.

Some tests are still pending. The transmission to each person isn’t clear, and the others may have gotten the virus when they got off the ship at other port calls in Vietnam, Taiwan, Kagoshima and Okinawa. The ship returned to Yokohama, near Tokyo, Monday.

Hundreds evacuate homes in New Zealand to escape flooding

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Hundreds of people evacuated their homes and farms Wednesday to escape flooding in southern New Zealand.

Authorities told many residents in the towns of Gore, Mataura and Wyndham they should leave immediately as rivers continued to rise following heavy rainfall.

Several hundred tourists were being evacuated from Milford Sound after getting stuck there earlier this week when

flooding and mudslides cut off car access. Many of the tourists were evacuated by helicopter.

The Grenfell family was rescued after spending a terrifying night stuck in a hut along a popular hiking track. They told New Zealand broadcaster Newshub that they set up tables to climb above the water and onto the top bunks.

“We were worried that the whole hut would actually start moving because it was creaking and the water was pushing

against the walls of the hut,” Tui Grenfell told Newshub. “So we did actually bash holes in the walls of the hut to allow the flow through the hut late last night.”

A helicopter finally arrived in the morning to rescue them.

Authorities have declared a state of emergency in the Southland region.

Weather conditions were improving Wednesday. Some rainfall is forecast over the coming days, but not the heavy rain that has caused the flooding.

Thailand confirmed six more cases Tuesday, raising its total to 25. Two are motorcycle taxi drivers who had driven for Chinese tourists. Earlier a Thai taxi driver was also diagnosed with the virus. The cases are concerning because they suggest the virus can spread more easily between people than has been suspected.

South Korea raised its total to 18, with the new cases raising concern about the illness spreading from countries other than China. South Korea’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said a man who attended a business conference in Singapore met a Malaysian there who had the virus. Another case confirmed Wednesday was the daughter of a woman who got sick after traveling in Thailand.

Dr. David Heymann, who led the World Health Organization’s response to the SARS outbreak, said it’s too early to tell when the new coronavirus will peak, but that it appears to still be on the increase.

He said the spike in China’s recent caseload is partly because the tally was expanded to milder cases, not only people with pneumonia. It is not yet considered a pandemic, or worldwide outbreak, which WHO defines as sustained transmission in at least two world regions.

Heymann said as the new virus starts to spread beyond China, scientists will gain a better understanding of it. “What we will see is the clearer natural history of the disease,” he said, as those exposed to the virus “are being traced and watched very closely,” he said.

Nevertheless, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged countries outside China to share more data on infections, saying detailed information has been provided in only 38% of cases. “Without better data, it’s very hard for us to assess how the outbreak is evolving or what impact it could have and to ensure we’re providing the most appropriate recommendations.”

World

9 killed, including 3 kids, at video game arcade in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Four gunmen shot to death nine people at a video game arcade in western Mexico, and among the dead were three children aged 12, 13 and 14.

Prosecutors in the state of Michoacan said late Monday the attack left two other people wounded.

The attackers were apparently searching for specific targets, but then opened fire indiscriminately on customers. Two of the victims were aged 17 and 18.

The attack occurred Mon-

day in Uruapan, a city of about 340,000 in Mexico's avocado belt where violence has reached shocking proportions.

Over the weekend, investigators also found the decomposed bodies of 11 people in clandestine graves in Uruapan.

Prosecutors said they were investigating a missing person case when they received a tip about the clandestine burial pits.

And on Friday in Uruapan, gunmen attacked a municipal police patrol, killing one officer and wounding two others.

That attack may have been

retaliation for the Friday arrest of a Viagras gang leader who has been implicated in 19 murders.

Turf wars between the Jalisco and Viagras drug cartels, as well as predecessors, have bloodied the city for several years.

In August, Jalisco cartel gunmen left nine bodies hanging from an overpass, with seven more corpses hacked up and dumped by the road nearby. Just down the road were three more bodies, for a total of 19. They hung a banner

from the overpass threatening the Viagras.

Uruapan is where many believe Mexico's 2006-2012 drug war began in September 2006, when armed, masked men burst into a bar there and tossed five severed heads onto the dance floor, along with written threats to rivals.

On Tuesday, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Michoacan was one of Mexico's most violent states, along with neighboring Jalisco, and would get special attention, including bases to

house National Guard troops.

"We are giving priority to states where we have the biggest problem of violence,

we are working now in these three states, Michoacan, Guanajuato and Jalisco," López Obrador said.

Turkey deploys extremists to Libya, local militias say

CAIRO (AP)—Syrian militants affiliated with groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are currently being sent by Turkey to fight on behalf of the U.N.-supported government in Libya, according to two Libyan militia leaders and a Syrian war monitor.

Both sides in Libya's civil war receive equipment and backing from foreign countries. But Turkey, which has long trained and funded opposition fighters in Syria and relaxed its borders so foreign fighters joined IS, has in recent months been airlifting hundreds of them over to a new theater of war in Libya.

The U.N.-supported government controls only a shrinking area of western Libya, including the capital, Tripoli. It's facing a months-long offensive by forces loyal to Gen. Khalifa Hifter who is allied with a rival government based in Libya's east. The United Nations recognizes the government in Tripoli, led by Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj, as Libya's legitimate government because it was born out of U.N.-mediated talks in 2015.

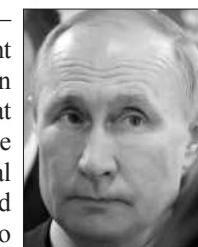
Sarraj is backed by Turkey, and to a lesser degree, Qatar and Italy. Hifter receives backing from the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, as well as France and Russia. Libya has the ninth largest known oil reserves in the world, and many of these countries are apparently jockeying for influence in order to control Libya's resources.

Libyan militia leaders in Tripoli told The Associated Press that Turkey has brought more than 4,000 foreign fighters into Tripoli, and that "dozens" of them are extremist-affiliated. The two commanders spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media.

The commanders also highlighted differing opinions within the Libyan militias about accepting Syrian extremists into their ranks. One said the fighters' backgrounds aren't important, as long as they've come to help defend the capital. The other said some commanders fear the fighters will "tarnish" the image of the Tripoli-based government.

Putin remains coy on his future political plans

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that a nationwide vote on constitutional changes he proposed wouldn't be used to extend his current term in office, but remained tight-lipped about his future political plans.



It's quite weird being home but not being home, and also being sort of locked in, almost like being back in Wuhan really," Kharn Lambert, a teacher who worked in Wuhan, told Sky News about being isolated at Arrowe Park.

France used two flights to bring back about 400 people from China. They are being quarantined at two different sites in southern France. Italy and Spain have quarantined dozens of evacuees at military facilities.

Kremlin critics have seen Putin's amendments as part of his efforts to stay at the helm after his current presidential term expires in 2024. The proposed changes, however, don't make it clear exactly how he could do that.

Asked during a meeting with students and teachers if the vote could be used to directly extend his term in office, Putin said it's not what he wants.

"I didn't propose that to extend my authority," Putin said. "The election of the head of state must be held on a competitive basis."

Observers have speculated that once his term expires Putin could use the amendments to continue calling the shots



In this Jan. 28, 2020, file photo, a worker wearing a face mask sprays disinfectant along a path in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province.

weekend to assist in screening passengers in case other U.S.-bound flights from Wuhan are diverted to the base due to weather or other reasons.

LATIN AMERICA

Mexico says 10 citizens who were flown from China to France on Saturday are in good health. The government hasn't restricted travel to Wuhan but advises against unessential trips.

Venezuela has started to monitor incoming passengers for symptoms at its largest air-

port near the capital, Caracas, and plans to expand screening to other airports.

Argentina hasn't placed restrictions on visitors from China. But two hospitals in Buenos Aires and Ezeiza have been designated for possible isolation and treatment of patients.

EUROPE

Britain has quarantined dozens of people evacuated from China at Arrowe Park Hospital in northwest England. One evacuee has been isolated at a separate hospital for

further tests.

"It's quite weird being home but not being home, and also being sort of locked in, almost like being back in Wuhan really," Kharn Lambert, a teacher who worked in Wuhan, told Sky News about being isolated at Arrowe Park.

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More than 24,500 people infected globally

A viral outbreak that began in China has infected more than 24,500 people globally.

The latest figures as of Wednesday in Beijing:

— China: 490 deaths and 24,324 confirmed cases on the mainland. In addition, Hong Kong has had 17 cases, including one death. Macao has had 10 cases. Most of the deaths have been in central Hubei province, where illnesses from the new type

- Canada: 4
- India: 3
- Philippines: 3 cases, including 1 death
- Russia: 2
- Italy: 2
- Britain: 2
- Belgium: 1
- Nepal: 1
- Sri Lanka: 1
- Sweden: 1
- Spain: 1
- Cambodia: 1
- Finland: 1 (AP)

UNITED STATES

March Air Reserve Base in California's Riverside County is near capacity after housing 195 people flown in from Wuhan who are now under a federal quarantine.

"We're pretty much full at this point," said Maj. Perry Covington, a spokesman at the base.

None of the evacuees at the base has shown signs of the illness. Tents were set up over the

Environment

As forests burn globally drinking water is at risk

By TAMMY WEBBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fabric curtains stretch across the huge Warragamba Dam to trap ash and sediment expected to wash off wildfire-scorched slopes and into the reservoir that holds 80% of untreated drinking water for the Greater Sydney area.

In Australia's national capital of Canberra, where a state of emergency was declared on Friday because of an out-of-control forest fire to its south, authorities are hoping a new water treatment plant and other measures will prevent a repeat of water quality problems and disruption that followed deadly wildfires 17 years ago.

There have not yet been major impacts on drinking water systems in southeast Australia from the intense fires that have burned more than 40,000 square miles (104,000 square kilometers) since September. But authorities know from experience that the biggest risks will come with repeated rains over many months or years while the damaged watersheds, or catchment areas, recover.

And because of the size and intensity of the fires, the potential impacts are not clear yet.

"The forest area burned in Australia within a single fire season is just staggering," said Stefan Doerr, a professor at Swansea University in Wales who studies the effects of forest fires on sediment and ash runoff. "We haven't seen anything like it in recorded history."

The situation in Australia illustrates a growing global concern: Forests, grasslands and other areas that supply drinking water to hundreds of millions of people are increasingly vulnerable to fire due in large part to hotter, drier weather that has extended fire seasons, and more people moving into those areas, where they can accidentally set fires.

More than 60% of the water supply for the world's 100 largest cities originates in fire-prone watersheds—and countless smaller communities also rely on surface water in vulnerable areas, researchers say.

When rain does fall, it can be intense, dumping a lot of water in a short period of time, which can quickly erode denuded slopes and wash huge volumes of ash, sediment and debris into crucial waterways and reservoirs. Besides reducing the amount of water available, the runoff also can introduce pollutants, as well as nutrients that

create algae blooms.

What's more, the area that burns each year in many forest ecosystems has increased in recent decades, and that expansion likely will continue through the century because of a warmer climate, experts say.

Most of the more than 25,000 square miles (64,000 square kilometers) that have burned in Victoria and New South Wales have been forest, including rainforests, according to scientists in New South Wales and the Victorian government. Some believe that high temperatures, drought and more frequent fires may make it impossible for some areas to be fully restored.

Very hot fires burn organic matter and topsoil needed for trees and other vegetation to regenerate, leaving nothing to absorb water. The heat also can seal and harden the ground, causing water to run off quickly, carrying everything in its path.

That in turn can clog streams, killing fish, plants and other aquatic life necessary for high-quality water before it reaches reservoirs. Already, thunderstorms in southeast Australia in recent weeks have caused debris flows and fish kills in some rivers, though fires continue to burn.

"You potentially get this feedback cycle," where vegetation can't recolonize an area, which intensifies erosion of any remaining soil, said Joel Sankey, research geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

The role of climate change is often difficult to pin down in specific wildfires, said Gary Sheridan, a researcher at the University of Melbourne. But he said the drying effects of wildfire—combined with hotter weather and less rainfall in much of Australia, even as more rain falls in the northern part of the country—mean that "we should expect more fires."

But climate change has affected areas such as Alaska and northern Canada, where average annual temperatures have risen by about 4 degrees (2.2 degrees Celsius) since the 1960s compared with 1.6 degrees (0.88 degrees Celsius) globally. As a result, the forested area burned annually has more than doubled over the past 20 to 30 years, said Doerr, from Swansea University.

Although there might be fewer cities and towns in the path of runoff in those areas, problems do occur. In Canada's Fort McMurray, Alberta, the cost of treating ash-tainted

water in its drinking-water system increased dramatically after a 2016 wildfire.

AP
In this Jan. 12, 2020, file photo, flames from a controlled fire burn around trees as firefighters work at building a containment line at a wildfire near Bodalla, Australia.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dolores Manibusan Cabrera Leon Guerrero

Lovingly known as 'Lo, Ling, Doe (Panko 10)'
September 06, 1964 – January 30, 2020

In her new life, she now joins her:
Father: †Antonio Sablan Cabrera
Mother: †Sylvia Pangelinan Manibusan Cabrera

Brothers & Sisters:
 †Antonia M. Cabrera
 †Lourdes C. Deleon Guerrero
 †Vicente M. Cabrera
 †Nicolasa M. Cabrera
 †Jose M. Cabrera

Brothers In Law
 †Daniel S. Celis
 †Joseph D. Aldan

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Charlie Anthony Duenas Leon Guerrero
Children: Sylvia Yoko 'Viayo' C. Leon Guerrero
 RosReeAnn Chloe C. Leon Guerrero
 Charla Dolores C. Leon Guerrero/Patrick P. Fitial
Granddaughter: Aaliyah Jade Leon Guerrero Fitial

Brothers & Sisters:
 †Antonia M. Cabrera & Family
 †Lourdes C./Edward Deleon Guerrero & Family
 †Vicente M./Aida D. Cabrera & Family
 †Nicolasa M. Cabrera & Family
 Ana C. Celis (†Daniel)/Diego Kaipat & Family
 Ramon M. Cabrera & Family
 †Jose M./Margarita S. Cabrera & Family
 Lillian C./Lorenzo Leon Guerrero & Family
 Diego M./Donna E. Cabrera & Family

Mother In Law: Ines 'Yoko' Cruz Duenas

Brothers & Sisters In Law:
 Nicolas D./Jacqueline C. Leon Guerrero & Family
 Lillian C. Leon Guerrero & Family
 Christopher D./Frances P. Leon Guerrero & Family
 Velma D. Aldan & Family
 Rita A./Honorable Mayor Vicente C. Santos Jr. & Family
 †Joseph D./Lucretia T. Aldan & Family
 James D./Rufina DLG. Aldan & Family
 Antonette A./Troy M. Palacios & Family
 Sean D. Aldan & Family
 Sophia D. Aldan/Petros Taisague & Family
 Veronica D. Aldan/Joseph Ojeda & Family

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, February 07, 2020.
 Our beloved †Dolores will lie in state at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9:00 AM.
 Responso Service will take place upon arrival of remains followed by recitation of Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery, where she will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Thank You - Si Yuus Ma'ase
Charlie Duenas Leon Guerrero, Children and Family

Life & Style

Back on stand, Weinstein accuser declares: 'He is my rapist'



Harvey Weinstein arrives at court for his rape trial, in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

AP

A day after breaking down in tears, a key accuser at Harvey Weinstein's trial returned to the witness stand Tuesday and endured a final day of withering cross-examination focused on the complex nature of their relationship, defiantly telling jurors: "I want the jury to know that he is my rapist."

The woman was back in a New York City courtroom for a third day as Weinstein's lawyers finished an exhaustive review of friendly, sometimes flirtatious emails she sent the film producer after she says he raped her twice in 2013.

They also played a recording she made of herself telling a psychic in April 2014 that Weinstein "had tried to cross boundaries in my life but I don't allow him to."

Weinstein's lawyers contend that evidence points to a consensual relationship and shows that the 34-year-old former actress was a manipulator who grin-and-bared her way through sexual encounters with Weinstein because she enjoyed the perks of knowing him.

"I know the history of my relationship with him," she pushed back. "I know it was complicated and difficult. But that doesn't change the fact that he raped me."

Asked by Weinstein lawyer Donna Rotunno how many times they had consensual sex, the woman responded: "I only remember intercourse the times that he raped me."

Cross-examination took up most of the woman's time on the witness stand.

She finished up direct testimony back on Friday and prosecutors decided not to ask her any additional questions once Rotunno was finished Tuesday afternoon.

One reason the defense has focused so much attention on the woman is because her allegations that Weinstein raped her at a Manhattan hotel in March 2013 are the basis for some of the most serious charges at issue in his trial.

The woman has alleged Weinstein raped her again several months later at a Beverly Hills hotel, though she said she is not sure if she will pursue charges there.

The woman's return to the witness stand followed an emotional episode Monday, when she sobbed while reading an email passage about being abused earlier in her life. It was part of an email she sent a boyfriend in May 2014 explaining her relationship with Weinstein. The judge halted proceedings when she was unable to continue.

The Associated Press typically does not publish the names of people alleging sexual assault unless they give their consent. The AP is withholding the name of the woman because it isn't clear if she wishes to be identified publicly.

Resuming questioning on Tuesday, Rotunno asked the woman about several times she saw Weinstein after

the alleged rapes, including her acceptance of his invitation to a Oscars party in 2015 and her decision to meet him in 2016 in his room at the same Beverly Hills hotel where she alleges he previously raped her.

After the 2016 hotel encounter, the woman emailed Weinstein saying, "I feel so fabulous and beautiful. Thank you for everything."

She told jurors that Weinstein "was being really nice to me" at that time, but said she couldn't remember if they had sex on that occasion. Weinstein, now 67, was married at the time to fashion designer Georgina Chapman.

At one point, Rotunno asked the woman why she would accept favors from "your rapist." That's when the woman turned to jurors and said: "I want the jury to know that he is my rapist."

While dozens of women have accused Weinstein of sexual assault or harassment, he is on trial in New York for allegations involving just two episodes with two women: the woman testifying Tuesday and a former film and TV production assistant, Mimi Haleyi, who alleges he forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006. Weinstein's downfall energized the #MeToo movement.

As big a factor as Tuesday's witness is in the case, the defense's painstaking cross-examination, coupled with her emotional reaction on Monday, could run the risk of alienating jurors and making her appear more sympathetic.

Shows canceled as virus outbreak spooks Asian entertainers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Concerts and shows are being canceled, not just in China but across much of Asia, as a virus outbreak that has killed more than 300 people and reached more than 20 countries spooks the entertainment industry.

Performances have been called off or postponed in South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macao over concern that people could be infected by the virus that first appeared in the central China city of Wuhan.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra called off its Asia tour, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic canceled five concerts.

Cantopop veteran Andy Lau canceled long-awaited concerts in Hong

Kong, with the organizer saying it's important to protect the health and safety of the audience. It's unclear whether Lau will proceed with an April concert in Wuhan.

Popular Hong Kong singers Leon Lai and Miriam Yeung also postponed their February concerts in Macao and Singapore, respectively. Taiwanese singer Jolin Tsai postponed her show in China, according to her official account on Weibo, a Chinese social media platform.

South Korean agencies have been canceling K-pop events at home and abroad in response to requests from fans about artists' safety.

Popular K-pop artists such as Taeyeon and boybands WINNER

and NCT Dream canceled shows in Singapore and Macao, according to their agency and concert organizer. K-pop boyband GOT7 postponed concerts in Bangkok and Singapore. A fan showcase by girlband GFriend is taking place without an audience due to virus fears.

The ripple effects of the virus have been hitting the arts industry hard in Asia, especially in Hong Kong. The city, which has molded itself into an international cultural hub and gateway to China, now faces cancellation of multiple events, wreaking further havoc on an economy already crippled by prolonged anti-government protests that started last summer.

equally apply the military obligation on Seungri, 29.

It said Seungri's case will be handed over to a military court if he joins the military.

Men eligible for military service in South Korea are allowed to delay their conscription five times under certain conditions before they become 31, but the accumulated delayed time cannot exceed two years.

Indicted K-pop star Seungri may face military court

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A K-pop star charged with violating South Korea's anti-prostitution law may have to join the country's army and face trial in a military court.

Last week, prosecutors indicted former Big Bang member Seungri, whose real name is Lee Seung-hyun, on charges of violating laws on prostitution, illegal gambling and foreign currency trading.

Radio host Limbaugh awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, during the State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Limbaugh, 69, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, announced Monday he is battling advanced lung cancer.

Trump said the diagnosis was not good news, but added, "What is good news is that he is the greatest fighter and winner that you will ever meet."

A bearded Limbaugh, seated next to first lady Melania Trump, looked stunned as the president announced the award. He eventually stood and saluted Trump and offered a thumbs-up to Republicans in the House chamber.

Melania Trump presented the award to Limbaugh, placing the blue-ribbed gold medal around his neck.

Trump thanked Limbaugh for "decades of tireless devotion to our country" and said the award recog-

nized the millions of people a day Limbaugh speaks to and inspires, as well as his charity work.

Limbaugh said Monday he intends to work as much as possible. He also said he had focused more "intensely" in the past two weeks on what he called his "deeply personal relationship" with God.

Limbaugh is widely credited as key to Republicans' takeover of Congress in 1994 and has strongly supported Trump and other Republicans.

Limbaugh has frequently been accused of hate-filled speech, including bigotry and blatant racism through his comments and sketches such as "Barack the Magic Negro," a song featured on his show that said former President Barack Obama "makes guilty whites feel good" and called Obama "black, but not authentically."

His popularity has survived brickbats and thrived despite personal woes. In 2003, Limbaugh admitted an addiction to painkillers and entered rehabilitation.

NEW YORK (AP)—Shannen Doherty is battling a recurrence of breast cancer that has progressed to stage four, telling fans “it’s a bitter pill to swallow.”

“I definitely have days where I say, ‘Why me?’ And then I go, ‘Well, why not me? Who else? Who else besides me deserves this?’ None of us do,” Doherty told “Good Morning America” on Tuesday. “I don’t think I’ve processed it. It’s a bitter pill to swallow in a lot of ways.”

The actress from “Charmed” and “Beverly Hills, 90210” first revealed she had breast

cancer in 2015 and charted her battle with the disease and its remission on social media.

She said one reason she came forward to say it has returned is because her health conditions could come out in court. The actress has sued insurance giant State Farm after her California home was damaged in a fire in 2018.

“I’d rather people hear it from me. I don’t want it to be twisted. I don’t want it to be a court document. I want it to be real and authentic,” Doherty said. “I want people to know from me, I just didn’t want them to know yet.”

In a court filing Tuesday, her lawyers argue Doherty has been forced to pay out of pocket for losses she believes should be covered by her insurance policy. “Plaintiff Shannen Doherty is dying of stage 4 terminal cancer. Instead of living out her remaining years peacefully in her home, Ms. Doherty remains displaced and battling with her insurance company,” they argue.

“We empathize with Ms. Doherty’s health issues and wish her a full recovery,” State Farm said in a statement. “We strongly believe we have upheld our commitment to our

Shannen Doherty says she is battling stage 4 breast cancer

customer and have paid what we owe on this claim. We are prepared to defend our position in court.”

Court raises sentence for banker who smuggled a Picasso

MADRID (AP)—A Spanish court has raised the sentence against a former bank president found guilty of trying to smuggle a painting by Pablo Picasso out of the country.

The Madrid court announced the decision Tuesday to raise the sentence against fined ex-Bankinter head Jaime Botin to three years instead of 18 months. The move came after the prosecution detected an error in the original sentence handed down last month.

Doherty, 48, has been working on the show “BH90210” and kept the diagnosis mostly secret. “People with stage four

can work, too. Our life doesn’t end the minute we get that diagnosis. We still have some living to do,” she said.

The work was owned by Botin, an uncle of Ana Botin, president of the powerful Santander banking group.

Corsican authorities said they had been tipped off about an attempted smuggling of the prized painting from Spain by boat. They said the oil painting, which comes from the Cubist master’s “pink period” and features a woman with long black hair, was seized when the boat’s captain was unable to produce a proper certificate.

Rihanna to receive special honor at NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna will receive the President’s Award during the 51st NAACP Image Awards this month.

The NAACP announced Tuesday that it had selected the 31-year-old pop star and fashion icon for her “ground-breaking career as an artist and musician, but (someone who) has also distinguished herself as a stellar public servant.”

Rihanna will be given the award during the Feb. 22 ceremony that will be televised for the first time on BET. The show will air live from Pasadena, California.

Previous recipients include Jay-Z, Muhammad Ali, Jesse Jackson and Condoleezza Rice.

Rihanna, born Robyn Rihanna Fenty, is a nine-time Grammy winner who

launched her own fashion line last year called Fenty with LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world’s largest luxury group. She also has a lingerie line, Savage X Fenty, that debuted in 2018.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson said Rihanna “epitomizes the type of character, grace and devotion to justice” that the organization seeks to highlight.

Outside court, Glover-Hogan said a handwriting expert confirmed that the 2014 document, found under a living room cushion, was in Aretha Franklin’s handwriting. The admissibility of the will, however, hasn’t been determined.

“His mother knew what she was doing,” Glover-Hogan said of Kecalf Franklin’s fitness for the job of managing the estate.

Kecalf Franklin declined to talk about how he would run the estate, which includes master recordings and publishing rights.

“We just want justice to be served,” he told reporters.

Franklin to run her estate. A niece, Sabrina Owens, now fills the role, but she wants to give up the job, citing a “rift” in the family.

Owens watched from the courtroom gallery as Kecalf Franklin’s lawyer, Charlene Glover-Hogan, asked a judge to step in and approve any legal fees for the estate’s attorneys before they’re paid.

In response, David Bennett said Franklin’s four sons or their lawyers had agreed that his firm would represent the estate, shortly after Aretha Franklin’s death. He denied keeping the sons in the dark.

“This is not a cash-poor estate,” Bennett said.

Judge Jennifer Callaghan set that dispute for another

day. She also ordered the parties into mediation.

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Painting showing Hitler as Cain displayed in Berlin museum

BERLIN (AP)—A 1944 painting by German artist George Grosz that depicts Nazi leader Adolf Hitler as the Bible’s fratricidal Cain went on display at the German Historical Museum in Berlin on Tuesday as part of a new permanent exhibition.

Grosz was one of the most important artists focused on political themes during the Weimar Republic in Germany, a period between the end of World War I and the Nazis’ rise to power in 1933.

Grosz immigrated that year to the United States. The Nazis deemed many of his creations “degenerate art” and destroyed them.

The 1944 painting “Cain or Hitler in Hell” depicts a broken Hitler sitting among skeletons as war rages behind him. The biblical Cain murders his brother, Abel, and God condemns him to a life of wandering.



A man looks at a 1944 painting “Cain or Hitler in Hell”, by George Grosz, during a press preview at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

The artwork helps illustrate “how Grosz further developed his critical form after emigration,” said Markus Hilgert, a senior German cultural official.

Grosz himself said the painting shows “Hitler as a fascist monster, or as an apocalyptic beast.”

The painting, purchased from Grosz’s heirs, will be a central part of a new permanent exhibition.

“For me, it is important that now younger people will have access to the painting and the critical view the artist had of Nazism,” Hilgert said.

Management of Aretha Franklin’s estate still unsettled

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—A lawyer for a son of Aretha Franklin asked a judge Tuesday to keep an eye on professional fees paid by the late singer’s estate, the latest jab in a dispute over assets left by the Queen of Soul.

Separately, the judge set a March 3 hearing on a request by Franklin’s niece to step aside as personal representative, or executor, of the estate.

Franklin died without a formal will in August 2018. Her estate was worth an estimated \$17 million last summer, although the family has been squabbling since last spring when handwritten wills were found in her home.

A 2014 document indicates that Franklin wanted Kecalf

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Shower guest questions need for giving bride a second gift

EAR ABBY: My niece on my husband’s side was engaged to be married two years ago. There was a bridal shower, and everyone gave gifts or gift cards. Two weeks after the shower, the wedding was canceled because of the groom-to-be’s infidelities. The shower gifts and gift cards were never returned nor was anyone reimbursed.

The same niece is getting married to someone else now. Another shower is being given for her. Everyone on her side of the family is invited. Are we required to give gifts again? Can we attend the shower and not give a gift? Should we all just not attend? Please help.

ALREADY GAVE ONCE

DEAR ALREADY GAVE: Any unopened gifts from the first shower should have been returned to the givers. Because they weren’t, you are not “obligated” to give the bride another gift. However, if you plan to attend this shower, in my opinion, you should not go empty-handed.

DEAR ABBY: Last week, I was in my college’s cafe, minding my own business and studying for a test. I looked toward a group of guys that hang out there and made eye contact with a guy friend I’ve known since preschool. He

made his way to my table, sat down and we started talking about classes and whatnot. Suddenly, he changed the subject and asked me if I was seeing anyone. I said no, and he blurted out that he’s in love with me! He said he has loved me for a very long time, that I am perfect in his eyes, and that I’m too harsh and doubt myself. Then he said he wants me to give him a chance.

The thing is, I don’t like him that way and never have. He’s not the type of guy I’m attracted to. How do I go about rejecting him without losing him as a friend?

FRIEND ZONE IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR FRIEND ZONE: Tell him the truth—that you like him, too, but only as a friend, and hope he will find someone soon who can reciprocate his romantic feelings. He may not like the message, but he will respect you for your honesty and for not wasting his time.

DEAR ABBY: I have many older friends, and when we go out for lunch or dinner, all they talk about is their aches and pains and other medical stuff. I will always be their friend and support them, but sometimes it’s such a downer, they even get depressed listening to each other.

What’s the best way to change the conversation to happy sub-

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



jects while being sensitive at the same time?

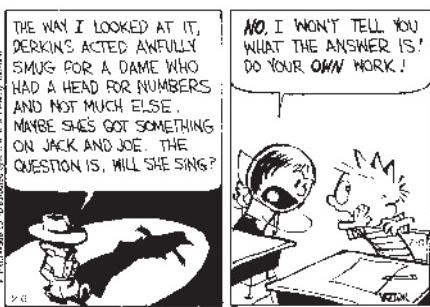
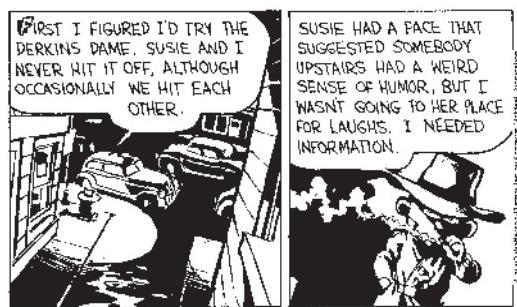
HAPPY SUBJECTS ONLY

DEAR HAPPY: Older people sometimes dwell on their aches, pains and other medical stuff because they have little else to occupy their minds. If you are sensitive, you will listen sympathetically for a period of time, then propose you all change the subject to something more upbeat—and SUGGEST something.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

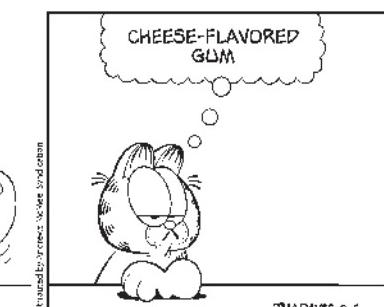
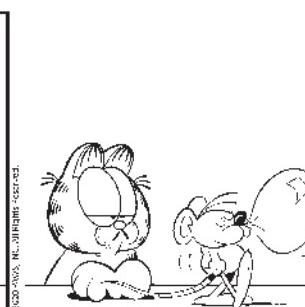
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

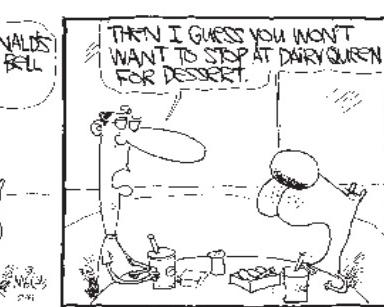
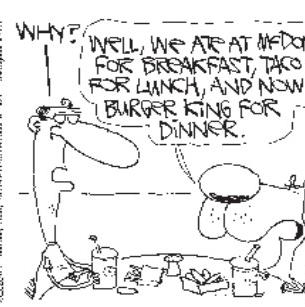
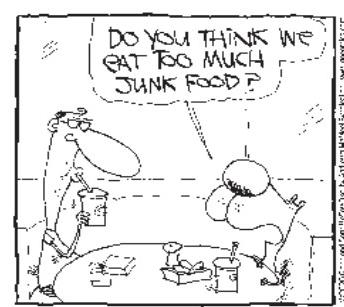


By Jim Davis

Adam@home



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		42	Curator's concern	22	Kate of "The Martian"	
1	Binge	Ms.	Gardner	3	"Suburb-gatory" actress	23 Salty expanse
4	Teensy bit	44	Nosy people	46	Kitchen tool	Delta's one-time rival
8	Sun-screen additive	50	"Bow-wow!"	51	Body powder	29 On "E"
12	Eggs	52	Nevada gambling city	53	Label	30 Slightly wet
13	EI —, Texas	54	Car bar	55	Fed.	31 Yale students
14	401(k) relatives	56	Deco artist	57	workplace monitor	33 Spirited meetings?
15	Bergman/Boyer film	58	Essen exclama-tion	59	Sacred song	35 Hosp. parts
17	Low-lying area	60	Radiator sound	61	June honorees	38 Fourth-yr. students
18	Pot brew	62	Observe	63	Island near Java	40 Scalawags
19	Type of exercise	64	Emulated Michael Phelps	65	In — (shortly)	43 Like some floors
21	Finger-paints	66	Slow run	67	16 Meadow	45 Tram load
24	Body art, for short	68		69	Cleaning cloth	46 Six-sided state
25	Method	70		71	10 Island near Java	47 Cab
26	However	72		73	11 In — (shortly)	48 Building wings
28	Crystallized stone	74		75	12 Radiator sound	49 News reporter
32	War god	76		77	13 Meadow honorees	50 Norm (Abbr.)
34	Bedazzle	78		79	14 Cleaning cloth	51 Tennis feat
36	Two-way	80		81	15 Island near Java	52 Yon maiden
37	Stable mothers	82		83	16 Meadow honorees	
39	Noah's boat	84		85	17 Cleaning cloth	
41	Texter's "More than I need to know!"	86		87	18 Island near Java	
		88		89	19 Cleaning cloth	
		90		91	20 Island near Java	
		92		93	21 Cleaning cloth	
		94		95	22 Cleaning cloth	
		96		97	23 Cleaning cloth	
		98		99	24 Cleaning cloth	
		99		100	25 Cleaning cloth	

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Astley, 54; Axl Rose, 58; Kathy Najimy, 63; Tom Brokaw, 80.

Happy Birthday: The decisions you face this year will change your relationship with others as well as the path you take. Reserving your energy for what's most important will ensure that you are successful in your pursuits. The less you rely on others for assistance, the easier it will be to reach your set destination. Follow your creative dreams. Your numbers are 4, 12, 23, 28, 32, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let a family disagreement damage your relationship with someone you love. Be willing to take half the blame and move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Keep the peace, and you will gain respect. Make your space more comfortable and convenient. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get together with someone from your past. Valuable information will change your life. Travel, educational pursuits and reunions are favored. A change you want to make will be approved. Speak up and share your plans, and you'll receive encouragement. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Question your direction, and consider your options. Put a long-term plan in place, and you will begin a journey that will lead to self-satisfaction.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take it easy. Look at the humor in whatever situation comes your way. Personal improvement

ments, self-awareness and being true to yourself are encouraged. Change may not be your choice, but it will lead to a brighter future. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at your options, and consider where to put your energy. An opportunity to make extra cash will unfold if you invest in something familiar to you. Using your home as a workplace will be to your advantage. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An unexpected change will take you by surprise. Don't hesitate to become a participant. Love is in the stars. Plan something special, and it will have an impact on your relationship and your future. Romance and commitment are favored. ★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take your time, think matters through and make decisions based on facts. Do your own thing, and give others the same freedom you want. Taking an unusual approach to whatever you do will provide you with the push you need to achieve your goal. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be on the move. Traveling and dealing with people from different backgrounds will lead you to new possibilities. Enjoy the change of pace, and embrace the unexpected. Let your close to someone special. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Go over personal papers. Changes should be considered, especially regarding domestic, financial or health matters. You can gain ground, but it will require you to take care of issues first. Refuse to let emotional situations interfere with

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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making a stellar decision. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Question your personal life. If someone you love is not living up to his or her promises, you may want to have a heart-to-heart talk. A meeting can change the way you move forward. Listen carefully, and refrain from making demands. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep the pace quick, be precise and head in a direction that shows promise; you will double your productivity. The more you do, the better you will feel and the higher the rewards. Your versatility will lead to the success you desire. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Give yourself a chance to flourish. Romance will encourage you to pay more attention to the way you present who you are, what you do and how you look to the world. Travel, entertainment and creativity are favored. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, intelligent and serious-minded. You are creative and productive.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MARTIN LUTHER'S NINETY-FIVE THESES

Solution: 11 letters

D	X	S	N	I	E	N	I	R	T	C	O	D	M
S	O	L	U	A	I	N	L	P	K	N	O	M	E
L	E	C	L	C	D	U	B	A	O	S	R	L	N
U	L	E	U	U	O	I	G	I	R	E	P	E	N
O	H	M	T	M	B	F	G	E	B	O	M	O	E
S	E	E	H	L	E	I	N	O	W	A	M	E	P
A	A	R	E	N	L	N	T	I	C	H	A	N	G
C	V	C	R	E	I	C	T	A	H	E	A	D	D
U	E	Y	R	S	O	T	D	C	T	E	S	E	N
L	N	E	E	A	E	E	A	A	U	E	N	L	A
E	G	C	C	N	M	N	B	E	R	P	R	A	I
P	L	A	B	I	O	E	T	A	S	T	H	A	E
S	O	E	C	N	D	M	N	F	A	I	T	H	N
O	R	P	S	M	E	R	I	T	N	D	O	O	R
G	Y	G	O	L	O	E	H	T	L	I	U	G	S

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By Dave Green

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AP sources: Boston agrees to trade Betts, Price to Dodgers



BOSTON

(AP)—The Red Sox have agreed to trade 2018 AL MVP Mookie Betts to the Los Angeles Dodgers, packaging the star outfielder with left-hander David Price in a salary dump that is expected to save Boston tens of millions of dollars, according to two people with knowledge of the deal.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the trade had not been announced.

The Dodgers are sending outfielder Alex Verdugo back to the Red Sox. The deal also involves the Minnesota Twins, who are getting right-hander Kenta Maeda from the Dodgers and sending pitching prospect Brusdar Graterol to Boston.

Los Angeles will also get cash from Boston to offset some of the \$123 million owed to Betts and Price, but the exact amount was not yet known.

Unable to sign Betts to a long-term deal, Boston decided to move him now rather than let the four-time All-Star leave as a free agent after the 2020 season. He will earn \$27 million this season and has expressed eagerness to test the market.

The deal comes a century



Los Angeles Dodgers' Alex Verdugo, left, gets ready to have his picture taken with Desirae Cortez, right, along with her children Emma, second from left, and Julianna during Dodger Stadium FanFest Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, in Los Angeles. AP

after Boston infamously sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees.

One of baseball's best all-around talents, the popular Betts should fit nicely into a Dodgers lineup that also

includes reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger. Los Angeles has won seven straight NL West titles but hasn't celebrated a World Series championship since 1988. The Dodgers lost to Betts and

the Red Sox in the 2018 Fall Classic, a year after being defeated by the Houston Astros in seven games.

Price is due \$96 million over the final three years of a \$217 million, seven-year deal

he signed before the 2016 season. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner missed time last year with a wrist issue and went 7-5 with a 4.28 ERA in 22 starts.

The Dodgers finally pulled off the kind of splashy off-season deal that has eluded them in recent years. They lost out on two primary off-season pursuits when pitcher Gerrit Cole signed with the New York Yankees for \$324 million over nine years and third baseman Anthony Rendon signed a \$245 million, seven-year contract with the rival Angels.

Until now, the Dodgers' top addition this winter was reliever Blake Treinen.

Adding Betts' bat to a lineup that includes Bellinger, Justin Turner, Max Muncy and Corey Seager makes the Dodgers even more fearsome. Their offense led the National League with 886 runs and 279 home runs last year.

Verdugo, a left-handed hitter, batted .294 with 44 RBIs and 12 home runs in 106 games before a back injury in August ended his season early. His outfield defense is average, but at 23 he has time to improve.

Betts' departure deepens the disappointment in Boston, where the New England Patriots sat out the Super Bowl for the first time in four years and face the prospect of quarterback Tom Brady leaving as a free agent. The Red Sox are now without the best player, the top executive and the manager who led them to a franchise-record 108 wins and the World Series champi-

onship a year ago.

The deal makes sense only in the complicated economics of baseball's collective bargaining tax, which penalizes a team for spending over a preset limit — \$208 million for 2020. What's more, a ballclub that surpasses the threshold in three straight years pays a top rate of 95%; on the other hand, if a team goes under the limit for a season, the penalty for their next violation resets to the lowest rate of 20%.

This deal is expected to get Boston below that threshold.

Owner John Henry said in September, after the team missed the playoffs for the first time since 2015, that the Red Sox "need to be under the CBT." Team president Sam Kennedy later walked back the comments and said that was "a goal but not a mandate." After he was hired, Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said: "The goal remains to be competitive always. 2020 is important. So are 2021, 2022 and beyond."

Undoubtedly, the focus is now on the future.

The Red Sox remain without a manager three weeks after firing Alex Cora for his role in the Houston Astros 2017 sign-stealing scandal; Major League Baseball has not announced the results of its investigation into whether Cora implemented a similar scheme when he took over in Boston in '18. Pitchers and catchers are due to report to spring training in one week.

The new manager will need to sort out a lineup that is missing a player who batted leadoff and won four straight Gold Gloves in the outfield, as well as Price, a five-time All-Star.

Red Sox slugger J.D. Martinez was among the first to react to reports of the deal on social media, sending out only a sad-face emoji.

Graterol is a hard-throwing righty who ranked 83rd on MLB.com's most recent list of the top 100 prospects in baseball. He made his major league debut last season with the Twins and posted a 4.66 ERA in 10 relief appearances. A starter in the minors, he faces questions about his durability but could get a chance to pitch in Boston's rotation. If not, he's thrown as hard as 102 mph and could be an effective late-inning reliever.

Click seeks quick success with Astros after replacing Luhnow

HOUSTON (AP)—James Click knows Houston's sign-stealing scandal has tarnished the franchise's reputation.

Instead of looking back at the turmoil, the new general manager hopes he can help the Astros make a fresh start.

"We're focused on the future," he said. "Obviously, there's been some things in the past that may have, have not gone the way that the Astros organization wanted it to. I wasn't here for that. I'm trying to bring a fresh look."

Click was introduced on Tuesday, joining a scandal-plagued team that scrambled to fill two major roles just before the start of spring training.

Click took over for Jeff Luhnow, suspended for a season by Major League Baseball and then fired. The Astros last week hired 70-year-old Dusty Baker to take over for AJ Hinch as manager.

The 42-year-old Click spent the last three seasons as the Tampa Bay Rays' vice president of baseball operations. Click had been with Tampa Bay for the last 14 seasons.

Astros owner Jim Crane lauded the combined experience of Click and Baker, who have joined a team that lost a seven-game World Series to

Washington.

"They've both been in baseball a long time and have unbelievable experience," Crane said. "We're confident that under their leadership we will win another championship or championships."

Click seemed undaunted at the challenge of taking over a team portrayed as an outlaw. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred concluded the Astros used electronics to illicitly steal signs during their run to the 2017 World Series championship and again in the 2018 season.

"My goal is to help us win this year, nothing less," Click said. "I'm confident that with the talent we have in the front office and the talent we have on the field that we will be competitive for years to come."

Click is a Yale graduate and wrote for the analytics website Baseball Prospectus for several years before being hired by the Rays.

Click was involved in guiding and overseeing all aspects of the baseball operations department. His areas of focus were research and development, strategic planning and innovation.

Click was asked if he was concerned about hiring

someone who has never been a general manager to lead his team during these trying times.

"He's worked in almost every department and has tons of experience and was primed to be a general manager," Crane said. "With his experience level, and his interaction with the guys, and our entire staff, I think he's definitely the right person and I have no reservations whatsoever putting them in the job. I know we can do it."

Click is the 13th general manager in franchise history.

"Winning a championship is going to be on the front burner at all times," Click said. "I'm really looking forward to getting to know Dusty and everybody here at the Astros and figuring out the best way to do that."

In his report on Houston's sign-stealing, Manfred called the culture in the team's front office "problematic." Before the sign-stealing sanctions, the Astros were widely criticized when assistant general manager Brandon Taubman was fired after yelling at female reporters about closer Roberto Osuna during the team's celebration after winning the AL Championship Series.

Click didn't have any comment on how things were done in the past, but vowed that he'd foster a nurturing culture under his watch.

"Culture is something that I take very seriously," he said. "And I think we'd like to do everything we can to continue to make sure that this is an employee-first culture, the kind of place where people want to work and are involved and engaged in every phase of your life, that continue the positive culture that we have with the Astros."

Crane found a new manager and general manager in less than a month after Luhnow and Hinch were fired on Jan. 13. The Astros also were fined \$5 million, the maximum allowed under the Major League Constitution, and forfeited their next two first- and second-round amateur draft picks.

Alex Cora, the bench coach for the Astros in 2017 and the manager who guided the Red Sox to the 2018 World Series title, recently parted with Boston. Carlos Beltrán, singled out for his role in the cheating scheme while playing for the 2017 Astros, was let go as manager of the New York Mets last month before working his first game.

Kansas City braces for throngs of fans at Chiefs parade

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Hundreds of thousands are expected to flood downtown Kansas City on Wednesday despite a predicted winter storm as the triumphant Chiefs bring home a Super Bowl trophy for the first time in 50 years.

Several schools in the area canceled classes, freeing up buses to haul fans to the celebration of the team's come-from-behind 31-20 win against San Francisco.

"This is a celebration that is a long time in the making," said Mayor Quinton Lucas during a news conference Tuesday in which he also urged fans to "bundle up" as forecasters called for 2 to 3 inches (5.1 to 7.6 centimeters) of snow along the route.

City staff that aren't involved in public safety or other essential services will be freed of their duties to watch the parade, which starts at 11:30 a.m. and ends with a rally in front of the city's Union Station.

Meanwhile, the Kansas Legislature canceled that day's session, while lawmakers in Missouri planned a light workday. Many businesses in the area also made plans to close or operate on a reduced schedule. At Children's Mercy Kansas City, the emergency room at the main downtown hospital will be open, but appointments and some surgeries were being rescheduled or moved.

When the Royals won the World Series in 2015, an estimated 800,000 people flocked to the victory parade,



AP

Lazaro Real Cruz, center right, reacts as Kansas City Chiefs' Damien Williams scores a touchdown against the San Francisco 49ers during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, while watching TV at Tom's Watch Bar LA Live in Los Angeles.

shattering expectations in a city with a population of about 470,000 and a metropolitan area of about 2 million. Cellphone towers were overwhelmed by the throngs, and motorists began parking along side of the interstate and walking as exits jammed.

The city has learned from that experience and is making

adjustments, adding a temporary cell tower and increasing the number of portable toilets to 700 from 200. Officials also are boosting the number of lost child stations—something that was deemed crucial after about 100 youngsters became separated from their caretakers in 2015.

The city will again provide free shuttles, but will drop parade-goers further from the route to prevent buses from becoming trapped in traffic as happened during the Royals parade.

Kansas City police Major Chip Huth said law enforce-

ment from 19 surrounding agencies will help to provide security for the masses.

"The main thing we have learned," he said, "is that we need to be ahead of the response."

The weather will make it particularly difficult getting home, warned National Weather Service meteorolo-

gist Jimmy Barham. He said the snowfall will start at relatively light and will be at its heaviest during the rally, falling at a rate of half an inch (1.2 centimeters) an hour.

"One of our messages is it probably won't be bad getting to the parade but there will be hazardous conditions leaving the parade," Barham said.

ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

A year ago, Bill Belichick borrowed heavily from Vic Fangio's blueprints to throttle the high-scoring Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl.

Fangio's brilliant game plan in the Bears' 15-6 win over LA in Week 14 provided the backbone of New England's 13-3 victory in Super Bowl 53.

Had Kyle Shanahan studied Fangio's philosophy when facing Patrick Mahomes, maybe the San Francisco 49ers would have been the ones celebrating in Miami instead of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Nobody would want to borrow Fangio's call sheets from his games against K.C. in 2019, when the first-time head coach's Denver Broncos were swept by a combined 53-9.

Fangio had the right mindset, however, on Oct. 17, when the Broncos took a 7-0 lead over Kansas City in a game they went on to lose 30-6.

That's right. That's no typo.

Brandon McManus' extra point after an opening touchdown made it 7-0. But

Williams after a short catch to bring up fourth-and-13 with 1:53 left before J-Lo and Shakira danced across the halftime stage.

Shanahan didn't use one of his three timeouts, a concession that he was satisfied to go into halftime tied at 10.

As Shanahan let the seconds tick away, the camera cut to 49ers general manager John Lynch frantically signaling that his coach needed to call timeout, then looking perplexed that he didn't.

After a touchback, San Francisco got the ball with 59 seconds left in the half.

Only after a pair of runs brought up third-and-5 and Kansas City called timeout with 20 seconds left did Shanahan get aggressive. Jimmy Garoppolo completed a 20-yard pass to Jeff Wilson before unloading a 42-yard heave to George Kittle, who was whistled for a borderline offensive pass interference call with 6 seconds remaining.

So, Garoppolo knelt at his 34 and the teams retreated to their locker rooms locked in that tie

that a hot Shanahan was OK with just moments earlier.

The Niners got the second-half kickoff and reached the Kansas City 24, but on fourth-and-2, Shanahan settled for the field goal, just as he had on his team's opening drive in the first half when he sent kicker Robbie Gould out on fourth-and-5 from the K.C. 20-yard line.

The Chiefs answered with a touchdown drive for a 7-3 lead, rewarding Reid for going for it on fourth-and-1 from the San Francisco 5-yard line.

Here's the thing:

The 49ers ran roughshod over their opponents in the playoffs, averaging 5.77 yards a carry when you take out Garoppolo's half a dozen kneel-downs. That number in the Super Bowl was 6.68 yards, nearly as good as the 7.23 yards they averaged against Green Bay in the NFC championship.

They had to go for it on fourth-and-10 from midfield after Kansas City had stormed ahead 24-20 in the waning minutes, and Garoppolo was

ending run.

The Chiefs closed out the Titans with a 28-7 run in the AFC championship a week after they outscored Houston 51-7 after falling behind 24-0. So in their three playoff games, they closed out their opponents 100-14, another reason Shanahan should have been more aggressive before it was too late.

POTUS, I'VE A FEELING WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE

President Donald Trump faced criticism for fumbling his congratulatory tweet following the Chiefs' victory, tweeting: "You represented the Great State of Kansas and, in fact, the entire USA, so well. Our Country is PROUD OF YOU!"

Although the Missouri-Kansas state line divides metropolitan Kansas City, the team itself is based on the Missouri side, a fact that was ignored when the president's original tweet was quickly deleted and replaced with a new message: "We are proud of you and the Great State of Missouri. You are true Champions!"

Giannis has 34 points, 17 rebounds as Bucks top Pelicans



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had the strength and savvy to outshine rookie sensation Zion Williamson in the latest double-digit triumph for the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks.

Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 17 rebounds, and the Bucks defeated New Orleans 120-108 on Tuesday night.

"He's the former MVP," Williamson said when asked about his first experience playing against Antetokounmpo. "It's like going up against any great player; you do as much as you can to slow him down."

The Pelicans struggled to slow Antetokounmpo, as have many teams this season — especially recently. The Greek star now has at least 30 points and 15 rebounds in each of his past four games.

Antetokounmpo also was a factor on defense. While he usually defends off the ball, coming in late for block attempts or rebounds, he had chances in New Orleans to guard Williamson and even dynamic wing player Brandon Ingram.

"I take pride in that, and whenever I have an opportunity to guard a guy 1-on-1, I like it," said Antetokounmpo, whose defensive highlights included catching Williamson from behind on a fast break and swatting his shot out of bounds.

On offense, Antetokounmpo's physical dominance was on full display when he transferred the ball from his left to right hand and flipped it in off the glass as Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday pulled forcefully on his left arm in an attempt to stop him from scoring by fouling.

Khris Middleton scored 20 for the Bucks, who trailed 61-



AP
Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) goes to the basket in front of New Orleans Pelicans forward Nicolo Melli in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

58 at halftime but broke loose for 42 points in the third quarter, when they led by as many as 19.

Ingram scored 32 points and Williamson had 20 for the Pelicans, who briefly got as close as seven twice in the fourth quarter before the Bucks stemmed the tide and improved to 20-4 away from home this season.

Lakers 129, Spurs 102

In Los Angeles, LeBron James scored 19 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter while hitting five 3-pointers in an incredible three-minute span, propelling the Los Angeles Lakers to a 129-102 victory

over the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night.

James added nine assists and seven rebounds, and he hit five of his six 3s in that decisive barrage. Anthony Davis and Kyle Kuzma had 18 points apiece as the Lakers beat San Antonio for the third time this season, sweeping the season series.

Kuzma, the subject of numerous trade rumors with the deadline approaching, added 12 rebounds in one of his most impressive recent performances.

DeMar DeRozan had 28 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in his hometown for the Spurs, who have lost five of seven.

Nuggets 127, Trail Blazers 99

In Denver, Nikola Jokic finished an assist shy of a triple-double in just three quarters, and Gary Harris helped keep hot-shooting Damian Lillard in check as Denver routed Portland.

Jokic had 29 points and 13 rebounds as the Nuggets improved to 8-0 against Northwest Division rivals this season. They held Lillard to 21 points, ending his string of eight straight games with at least 30. Lillard was 8 of 23 from the floor, predominantly with Harris and Torrey Craig taking turns shadowing him.

Denver led by 34 in the third, and Jokic was given the final quarter off. The short-handed Nuggets were without Paul Millsap (bruised left knee), Mason Plumlee (right foot) and Michael Porter Jr. (right ankle). Jamal Murray returned to the lineup after missing 10 games with a sprained left ankle. He finished with 20 points.

Rockets 125, Hornets 110

In Houston, James Harden had 40 points and 11 assists, and the short-handed Houston Rockets overcame an early deficit to defeat Charlotte.

Houston won its third straight, handing Charlotte its

fourth consecutive loss and 12th in 13 games.

Harden finished a rebound shy of a triple-double after also scoring 40 points but falling one assist short of a triple-double in Houston's last game. He's scored at least 35 points in his past three games after struggling through a shooting slump over his previous four.

The Rockets played without starters Clint Capela and Russell Westbrook, who sat out with injuries. The Hornets led early in the fourth quarter before Houston used a 15-2 run to take control.

Miles Bridges and Terry Rozier had 20 points each for the Hornets.

Knicks fire Steve Mills, begin search for new president

will look for someone else to do it.

"I will always be grateful to Jim for giving me the chance to represent this franchise and I'm disappointed we were unable to achieve success for New York," Mills said. "I would like to thank the staff and the players for their hard work during my tenure. I will always be a Knicks fan."

Mills' firing is the second major change for the Knicks this season. They fired coach David Fizdale after just 22 games.

The Knicks are 15-36 this season, Mills' third in charge after replacing Phil Jackson. They were 17-65 last season, tying the worst record in franchise history, but believed a big summer could lead to a quick improvement.

However, they couldn't sign any of the top free agents despite having enough money to afford two of them, watching as Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving instead went to Brooklyn. Mills then pivoted to sign veteran players to short-term contracts, later insisting those were the players New York was targeting all along.

But instead the Knicks are headed for a seventh consecutive season with a losing record and no playoff appearance.

Now it will be up to Perry to decide if there are any moves worth making for the Knicks before Thursday. Their big trade from last season appears to be a failure: Kristaps Porzingis has helped spark a turnaround in Dallas after New York traded its former All-Star

there on Jan. 31, 2019.

Mills was the Knicks' general manager from 2013-17 before being elevated to president after Jackson's departure. He hired Perry and Fizdale, touting a new culture and a plan to rebuild the franchise through youth instead of seeking quick fixes.

But there haven't been any fixes at all.

Pressure shifted onto Mills after Fizdale was fired following a 4-18 start to his second season. The Knicks have played better under interim coach Mike Miller and won their last two games, but the organization remains one of the league's laughingstocks.

New York was blown out at home by Memphis last Wednesday in its most recent

home game, when point guard Elfrid Payton was suspended and forward Marcus Morris fined for their roles in an altercation late in the game. Fans chanted "Sell the team! Sell the team!" with Dolan sitting in his courtside seat.

Dolan decided on a different change.

He already has cycled through former players and coaches such as Isiah Thomas and Jackson, but little can stop the losing that has been a constant during his ownership.

There was immediate speculation that the next big name that would draw his interest was Masai Ujiri, who built Toronto's NBA championship team.

Oklahoma City's Sam Presti and Houston's Daryl Morey remain respected executives,

and sports and entertainment executive Rich Kleiman is a name to watch if they look outside current front office personnel, a person with knowledge of the details told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The Knicks said it was anticipated that Mills would be nominated to the board of MSG's standalone sports company following the completion of the proposed spinoff of the entertainment business.

"Steve and I have come to the decision that it would be best for him to leave his role as president of the New York Knicks," Dolan said. "We thank Steve for his many years of service to our organization and look forward to continuing our relationship with him as part of our board."

50 enrolled in Trench Tech BJJ Kids class



Over 50 are currently enrolled in Trench Tech Gym's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids program.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Trench Tech Gym is not only for menacing mixed martial artists as it is also home to adorable children learning Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Cuki Alvarez, Trench Tech Gym owner, said a total of 50 children ages 5-12 are currently enrolled in their Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids program.

"We have been officially conducting our Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids program since

October 2019. The program caters to children ages 5 to 12 and has been such a huge success," he said.

The 50 children train at Trench Tech Gym every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. The cost for the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids program is \$40 a month and the Trench Tech Gym rents and sell Gis (kimonos) for them to wear for training.

"BJJ is a great way to help teach your child, discipline,

self-esteem, respect, good health habits, and self-defense. Feel free to bring your child over for a free trial anytime," said Alvarez.

Brazilian jiu-jitsu is a self-defense system, martial art, and combat sport system that focuses on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.

It was developed from Kodokan judo ground fighting (newaza) fundamentals that were taught by a number of Japanese individuals includ-



ing Takeo Yano, Mitsuyo Maeda, Soshihiro Satake, and Isao Okano. Brazilian jiu-jitsu eventually came to be its own defined combat sport through the innovations, practices, and adaptation of judo.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids teaches that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend himself against a bigger, stronger, heavier opponent by using leverage to take the fight to the ground, and then applying joint locks and chokeholds to defeat the opponent.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids training can be used for sport

grappling tournaments and in self-defense situations. Sparring (commonly referred to as "rolling" within the BJJ community) and live drilling play a major role in training and the practitioner's development. Brazilian jiu-jitsu is considered a martial art, a sport, a

method for promoting physical fitness and building character, and a way of life

For more information on Trench Tech Gym's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Kids program, call Trench Tech at 670-783-4462 or visit their website at www.trenchtech.tv for more details.

MANIBUSAN

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sociate judge Juan Lizama is currently third in the standings after also finishing with a net score of 77. He finished with a gross score of 93, which minus his 16 handicap, gave him the net 77. Krishnan edged him in a scorecard tiebreak for No. 2 in the first round leaderboard.

In the longest drive competition, Rick Kautz outdistanced everyone in hole No. 2, while Nick Sablan did the same in hole No. 12.

Manibusan came closest to the pin in holes No. 3 and 17, while Krishnan won the contest in hole No. 7. Frances Sablan did the trick in hole No. 13.

The first round of SGA's season-ending tournament ac-

tually was supposed to be held last Saturday, but inclement weather pushed the first round to the next day.

Day 2 will now be played this Sunday, Feb. 9, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo. Tee time is 9am with show time set an hour earlier at 8am. Banquet will follow after the end of the second round at Kingfisher Golf Links.

Aside from Manibusan (May), Krishnan (December), Kautz (June), Nick Sablan (November), Lizama (July) and Frances Sablan, other monthly winners competing in the tournament are Larry Deleon Guerrero (January), Steve Balakrishna (February), Joe Sablan (March), John "Nanni" Cruz (April), Alex Tudela (August), Juan L. Babauta (September), and Manny Alvarez (October).

CAMACHO

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Guevarra finished with a combined weight of 105 in the snatch and clean and jerk competitions. She began her snatch routine with 35 kg before advancing to 40 kg. She then recorded her best lift of 45 kg in the third round. In the clean and jerk, Guevarra cleared 50 kg in the first round before lifting a 60 kg in the second. Guevarra missed her try at 65 kg.

Other gold medalists in

last Saturday's competition were David Barnhouse (209-kg division), Angel San Nicolas (96 kg), Joey Tudela (81 kg), Joshua G. Meneses (73 kg), and Brandon San Nicolas (67 kg).

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation organized

the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament and its president, John Davis, congratulated all the weightlifters for a successful event, even though he did remark it may have been the longest tourney of such kind as far as he could remember.

"This is actually a good learning process. But more than that you guys will be in the [International Weightlifting Federation] website. You're going to be in different places as time goes by," he said.

Davis said the CNMI Weightlifting Federation will host another weightlifting competition in June.

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation organized the competition. For more information on the weightlifting organization, call Davis at 789-9211.

dent and CNMI junior national tennis player Malika Miyawaki for organizing the SIS tennis tourney.

"I want to give thanks to Malika and the other volunteers for hosting the SIS tournament. Even if the weather conditions were not good, they did a great job managing it and finishing the tournament with happy smiles from everyone," she said.

In the boys U16 singles, Andy Kim took the championship after outlasting David Kwon in the finals in a super tiebreaker, 6-4, 4-6, 10-3, last Sunday also at the Fiesta Resort tennis courts.

June Yu, meanwhile, won

the boys U12 singles with a 6-4, 6-4 win against Wataru Kadokura in another finals matchup postponed by rain at the Fiesta Resort tennis courts.

Yu and Kadokura originally played their finals match last Sunday, but was stopped by rain. At the time of the postponement, Yu was leading the first game of the second set.

In the girls U12 singles, the 1990s pop song "Everybody have fun tonight" might as well have been blaring out at the Fiesta Resort tennis courts as Heo Wang faced Irin Chung in the finals early Sunday morning.

When the dust settled, the Wang-Chung matchup was



June Yu in action against Wataru Kadokura in the boys U12 singles finals of the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

MARK RABAGO



**AP sources:
Boston agrees to
trade Betts, Price
to Dodgers**

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**Giannis has
34 points, 17
rebounds as
Bucks top Pelicans**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Schorr wins boys U18 finals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Robbie Schorr can thank the weather for his win in the boys U18 singles in the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament after he beat one of Oceania's top female junior netters, Carol Lee, in the finals last Monday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The gold medalist in the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa seemingly benefitted from their game being postponed last Sunday, as when play resumed on Monday, Schorr was a completely different player from the day before against his fellow CNMI national tennis player.

Lee got the better of Schorr in their lone matchup before the SIS tourney, as the Saipan Community School alumnae beat him in the men's 5.0 singles of the 10th Tan-

Holdings Tennis Classic, 7-5, 7-5, 11-9, last November.

Before Sunday's match was stopped due to rain, Lee raced to a 4-0 lead in the opening set by breaking Schorr twice. Schorr fought back and broke Lee in the fifth game to make it 1-4 before play was eventually suspended.

When the match was resumed the next day, Schorr rallied big time by winning six of the next seven games to take the opening set, 7-6. With momentum obvi-

ously on his side, the 17-year-old took the second set and the championship of the boys U18 singles with a 6-4 victory.

"I fought and played hard and got the result," Schorr told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment on his victory against Lee.

The graduating Saipan International School student admitted the postponement may have played a part in changing the outcome of the finals.

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MARK RABAGO
Robbie Schorr in action
against Carol Lee in
the boys U18 singles
finals of the SIS STUCO
Tennis Tournament last
Sunday at the Fiesta
Resort & Spa Saipan.

Manibusan leads SGA Ace of Aces

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR


Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan judged pretty well the green and fairways of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course en route to topping the first round of the Saipan Golfers

Association Ace of Aces Tournament last Sunday.

The former Superior Court presiding judge wound up with a net score of 73 after shooting an eight-over-par 80. The 7-handicap Manibusan started out with a 41 in the first nine holes before improving with a 39 in the back nine.

Four strokes behind Manibusan is Das Krishnan after

the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director came away with a net score of 77 in the opening round. The 98-handicap Krishnan had a gross score of 86 built around a 41 in the first nine holes and 45 in the last nine holes.

Retired Superior Court as-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan topped the first round of the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Camacho is top women's lifter



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Raegine A. Camacho won the women's 81-kg division of last Saturday's Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Camacho defeated her lone competitor, Danica C. Guevarra, for the gold medal after totaling 125 kg in the snatch and clean and jerk competitions. She started the snatch with a lift of 45 kg before progressing to 50 kg. Camacho then recorded her best lift of 55 kg in the third and final round.

In the clean and jerk, Camacho started her campaign with 65 kg. She then lifted 70 kg in the second round before failing on her attempt at 75 kg in the third round.

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MARK RABAGO
Women's 81-kg gold medalist Raegine A. Camacho, second from left, poses with, from left, Latte Built Center owner Derek Cutting, silver medalist Danica C. Guevarra, and CNMI Weightlifting Federation president John Davis during the awards ceremony of the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.